EAST BAY EXPRESS

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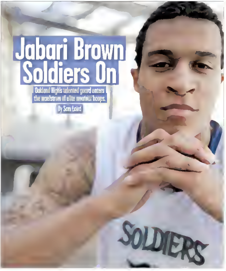

Jabari Brown Soldiers On

Oakland High's talented guard enters the maelstrom of elite amateur hoops.

By Sam Laird

CULTURE SPY — 19

THEATER — 25

TWELFTH NIGHT IN TINSELTOWN

Melissa Hillman reimagines Shakespeare for Hollywood

By Rachel Swan

Some Shakespeare lovers cite *Twelfth Night* as the playwright's most transgressive comedy. It has all the signposts — mistaken identity, cross-dressing, wild coincidences, a tiered class system, and a bit of magical realism — but Shakespeare takes liberties with all of them. His servants seem bawdier than their counterparts in other plays. His conception of time and space seems more elastic. And he uses drag not as a mere plot device, but as a veritable theme. In that sense, *Twelfth Night* is not only transgressive — it's transformative, transgendered, trans-everything. And it's a perfect fit for Impact Theatre, a small Berkeley-based company that's consolidated its reputation for quippy, clever, postmodern plays with omnisexual characters. A year after wooing audiences with an Eighties-era version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Impact replicated its success by subjecting *Twelfth Night* to the same formula. *Story inside*

FOOD — 34

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On the Cover *Johari Brown. Photo by Joseph Schell.*

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Office 510-879-3700 **Fax** 510-879-3794
National advertising 888-2-RUXTON **Fax** 907-226-4866

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tokidoki
adios
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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

[illegible]

Where's Ravi?

Upon reading Chris Thompson's article I was flabbergasted. There was no mention of the best known of the alternative economists — **Ravi Batra**. Pitting a Right Wing Libertarian against the apologists for Hyper-Corporatism seems like a deliberate attempt to avoid talking about the biggest cause of our economic troubles, the increasingly regressive tax structure.

Stan Moore, Berkeley

Bolding Insults Me

Your new usage of bold type in feature articles unnerves me in ways that nearly parallel your May 5-11 article "Believe Him (Or Not)." A prominent mistake is found in your misquoting of **Peter Schiff**'s quote "I'll be him a lot more than a penny," and toward the end of the article, the author **Chris Thompson** writes "The media took its hit long ago. In regards to declining public faith in the institutions that are supposed to inform and govern our lives. Is perhaps your newly distracted editorial function too devoted to boldfacing people's names in feature articles, à la "three dot" round-up columns, than tracking down significant content mistakes? I feel that your readership's intelligence is insulted, and that the quality of your reporting declines with this tabloid-style boldfacing.

Landon Phillips, Oakland

[illegible]

The Model Is Replicable

Thanks to reporter **Robert Gammon** for illuminating a few important issues in public education: inadequate funding and student achievement. While for the most part the piece was balanced and factual, I would like to offer a few insights here that hopefully will enter the ongoing dialogue about education and how to evaluate it.

One of Mr. Gammon's premises is that the work of schools like **Oakland School for the Arts** is not replicable because of the robust fund-raising we are able to do. Rather than accept that statement, why not view what OSA has achieved as a model for other private/public partnerships in the schools? OSA attracts funders that are interested in the arts; the **Oakland Military Institute** inspires donors who value that specific educational model; and other public charter schools have donor bases of contributors who believe in the particular mission of their school. Having been a school administrator in a large urban school district before entering the charter school world, I can only wish that I had acquired that entrepreneurial spirit years earlier. One issue may be that California needs more schools that offer a specialized educational model: the arts, community service, business and commerce, youth leadership — specific models that offer a purposeful, focused education for students and inspire donors with interest in the curricular area the school covers. If this were the case, if schools evolve into specialized educational providers with a recognizable "brand," I think the public would be surprised by how replicable this fund-raising model can be.

And about the test scores: the adherence to this narrow static measurement defies all logic. The teachers' union president who comments that our test scores should go through the roof because of our fund-raising is also, if I am correct, adamantly against any kind of merit pay system for teachers based on test scores. We need to be very clear about the value and usage of this all too-visible measurement. While we certainly use our achievement ranking as one gauge of our success, the intrinsic worth of a school is so much more than a single score. In the case of the Oakland School for the Arts, we also are part of an urban renewal initiative that has helped revitalize the exciting **Uptown** district. Around the country, other cities are taking up the call. And of course, our neighbors in San Francisco continue to carry the torch of placing their arts high school in the downtown arts corridor.

All of this points to the fact that schools like OSA offer a new educational paradigm: entrepreneurial, mission-focused, and a vital part of the community they serve. Rather than write this off as a specialty event that can't be replicated, we should use this model as a call to action and continue to create schools that inspire the public to contribute in significant ways to the future we envision.

Donn K. Harris, Executive Director
Oakland School for the Arts

Alternatives to the Capitalist Mindset

Interesting how different people can look at the same set of factors and come to starkly different conclusions of "reality." Let's start with the premise that test scores are the indicator of excellence. That is open to debate, and I'd encourage everyone to look closely at all sides of that debate. Gammon throws that point a bone, but his bias is fairly evident. Rather than offer a counterpoint to each of Gammon's assertions, I would like to offer this: There are many mainstream memes about education that are simply destructive. Public education is grossly underfunded, yet we are bombarded with the message that "throwing money at it won't fix the problem." How do we know? Throwing money at everything else would seem to be an unquestioned response (witness our "stimulus" dollars at work), so why don't we try it with education before dismissing money as a factor? Educrats insist on a narrow path for kids based on an assembly-line mentality: we want "results," so pack them on the conveyor belt, process them, and ship them out. The trouble is, kids are not products, they are vulnerable human beings; thus the metaphor of schools following a "business model" is fundamentally flawed, and we need, as a society, to think more in terms of civic models or family models, or other humanistic models for schools. For kids who are not going to be churned into the next mindless capitalist, there needs to be alternatives. Until we wake up, I am grateful for an alternative for my child. Thank you for OSA, Jerry Brown.

Hope Tolleford, Oakland

[illegible] Feature, 4/28

Winners All Around

An excellent concept, and an excellent story! At a time when the dark storm clouds of economic disaster and chaos seem to be forming in all directions on the horizon, this story pokes its way through the impending storm clouds like a beam of sunlight.

This type of program is a win-win-win for everyone. Talk about "hands-on" field biology! But obviously that's only the beginning. It's more than just learning about ecosystems, "green" practices, food, and nutrition and all of the other obvious aspects of this concept. It's also about teamwork, shared effort that everyone benefits from, and other "not so obvious" life lessons that are subtle, but essential. It was also a fun read. And of course, getting to actually eat the results from the garden as part the class.

I defy anyone to come up with anything negative about this class and others like it. What a great idea. 5 stars plus, and then some!

Charles, Berkeley

Can't Stop the Movement

In response to your article in the April 28 issue airing the controversy about the value of Alice Waters-inspired Edible Schoolyard at King Middle School, Caitlin Flanagan writing in *The Atlantic* misses the essential point. Children whose families raise food in their backyards are privileged children, regardless of whether their parents also send them to exclusive summer camps and travel abroad. Even Luke Tsai, author of the article, brings his cultural baggage, opining that "the truth of the matter is that California is in crisis right now with its failure to equip so many of its students with the basic skills that they'll need to go on to college and become successful." Our failure as a society is this, to offer ourselves and our children one measure of privilege, one measure of success.

My experience working with at-risk kids on the Susquehanna watershed replicates what Eachore reports in the Edible Garden. Unsurprisingly, restoration work on one's own watershed and/or tapping into our ancient agricultural heritage in a harmonious way re-

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Background Art by Emily Wall

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PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Candidates and ballot measures must receive 60% of the vote cast to be endorsed.
At three spring special meetings club members endorsed the following:

Proposition 15 Fair Elections
For US Senator Barbara Boxer
For Congress 9th District Barbara Lee
For Governor Jerry Brown
For Lieutenant Governor no endorsement
For Attorney General Kamala Harris
For Secretary of State Debra Bowen
For State Treasurer Bill Lockyer
For State Controller John Chiang
For Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones
For State Assembly 14th District Nancy Skinner
For State Assembly 16th District Sandre Swanson
For State Assembly 18th District Mary Hayashi
For State Board of Equalization Betty Yee
For State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
For Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3 Wilma Chan
For Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley
For Alameda County Superintendent of Schools no endorsement
For Alameda County Board of Education District 1 Joaquin Rivera
For Alameda County Auditor/Controller Patrick O'Connell
For Alameda County Assessor Ron Thomsen
For Superior Court Judicial Office #9 no endorsement
For Democratic Central Committee 14th AD Elisabeth Echols, Beverly Greene, Ellie Irons

The club also voted to oppose Propositions 13, 14, 16 and 17.

MGO is an independent grass-roots Democratic Club that heard candidate presentations and studied the ballot measures. No part of this ad has been paid for by candidates or ballot measure supporters or opponents.

MGO Democratic Club holds general membership meetings every third Thursday of the month. For more information, visit our website at www.mgoclub.org

steers the child. And restores the human. This accelerating focus on standardized testing to the exclusion of pursuits that make us more human is shortsighted. But then shortsightedness is perhaps the most descriptive quality of human development at this time, the one that is driving our species and other species and the planet MAD: mutually assured destruction.

Green jobs will be the harbinger of a future that is sustainable. What a pity that recovery dollars have focused on shovel-ready highway jobs rather than (for example) restoring the estimated 25,000 miles of West Virginia streams that have been despoiled by mountaintop removal of coal. The brief respite we and our pollinators experienced last year with State Departments of Transportations' frugality will surely see a summer of blasted median strips, as the chemical companies restock DOT supplies for poisoning our wild verges and streams.

I still believe that Green Jobs is on Obama's checklist and that he will get back to a National Service Program for our young people. In the meantime, Edible Schoolyard isn't a program, it's a movement. It can't be stopped by the shortsighted.

Dominy Kinzl, Kensington

Overpierced Wannabes

Dreadlocked Machiavellis like Sperling are who squeezed the life out of the rave scene in the first place, and who continue to be what's wrong with San Francisco nightlife in general. I don't have a problem with a good DJ making good money for a good night's work, but that's not what this is. This is yet another application of an all too familiar formula: Commodify an organic phenomenon and sell it back to the people you took it from. $70-$125 per ticket? To attend a "party"? No thanks. This is not a party. It's just another money-sucking event produced by a couple more of the overpierced and opportunistic young wannabes I meet all the time around here. When you're in it for the money, what you create just aren't "parties." Of course Sperling is trying to pull in an ever-younger demographic — so are McDonald's, The Gap, and whoever makes Camel cigarettes these days. $125 per ticket? How about Sperling and company open their books to the community they suck on? And how about you explain how your story isn't just another part of the problem? Thanks for listening.

Bruce Buchanan, Berkeley

What's Local About It?

I am going to say something I don't admit much. I am a former Happy Kid. Not the kind that attaches the moniker in front of their name for glory, but the kind of happy kid that gave birth to a crew that inspired many a copycat, some who were able to surpass us.

So I was delighted and amused to see in bold face on the cover this week two names: Happy Kid Morty and Dyloot. What followed was a fluffed up and highly misrepresented history that had some truth to it but was also incredibly erroneous. I wasn't happy but I can't say that I am surprised that another Rachel Swan article was well written but not well researched.

For those of us in the rave scene, our memories can be hazy, but I do know that Dyloot first threw a party in 1998, shortly after the Happy Kid's one-year anniversary at Maritime Hall, a venue that previously had done club nights and concerts but never a rave. And if memory serves me correctly, the first party he DJ'd was our second event and was at a warehouse in West Oakland; the rest of that particular story is true: he was the only DJ to perform before the party was busted and relocated to SF.

While it is mostly true that Dyloot is one of the only promoters that is currently doing events of this size in the Bay, events of this size used to happen a lot more and were mostly in East Oakland at places like 89th and Baldwin or Home Base. Techno Tribal Massive is a North Bay collective that does Dyloot-size events currently. The thing I am most surprised by is why this is culture news for the *Express* when I can't remember the last time Dyloot and Skills threw a party in the East Bay. I love Jason and wish him nothing but success. I just don't see how a huge party at the Cow Palace that most real ravers wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pole is newsworthy. Seems more like a glorified advertisement for someone I hope still considers me a friend.

I wish this mag would focus more on the actual local culture. That would make me happy. San Fran events get plenty of publicity and people and don't need to take up space in a newspaper dedicated to the Beast. We may not have massives anymore now that Henry J Kaiser and the other large venues are not operating anymore, but we have heart and plenty to do like the Vulcan Wide party or the East Bay Kats TV Smash, both on May Day, or the upcoming Grant Slam that a nonprofit named Circle Academy is doing where they are holding a series of events where artists pay a small fee to participate and then choose which of them receives the grant from the proceeds. There is a new Arts Center in Oakland that is making buzz and is the home of Circle Academy. I should know. I run it, and we have filmmaking events, workshops, concerts, dinner theater, and even "raves" on the calendar. Rachel, it's time to take it to the next level and be reliable, not just readable.

Use Devi, Oakland

Corrections

The May 12 Eco Watch "Building It Green in Berkeley" contained an error in the photo caption. The developers of Parker Place are shooting for LEED-Platinum certification, but the housing complex has not yet received such certification.

The May 12 music story "Bright Lights," misspelled the last name of Franca and the Lights drummer Jake Schreier.

The May 12 story "Bare Soles," incorrectly stated that chiropractor Jessica Greaux works out of Oakland. She works out of Berkeley.

The May 12 Eat Beat, "A Loss to the East Bay Music Community," contained an error in the photo attribution of Peter Webster. It should have been credited to "Brain Injury Dialogues."

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/letters

Letters Policy

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ARIZONA'S LAW AND RACIAL PROFILING

East Bay cities join the boycott over the new anti-illegal-immigration law as evidence of racial profiling emerges in one of the nation's most liberal cities.

By Robert Gammon

The East Bay is alarmed about Arizona's tough new anti-illegal-immigration law. Demonstrators marched down International Boulevard earlier this month and **UC Berkeley** students held a hunger strike. Oakland and Richmond recently joined a growing boycott of Arizona, and the Berkeley City Council is expected to do the same this week. The rest of the country, however, appears to strongly support the new law, which requires Arizona police to demand identification from people they suspect are in the country illegally. According to a **McClatchy-Ipsos** poll released last week, 64 percent of registered voters nationwide approve of it.

Most Americans, it seems, have no problem with racial profiling. Conservatives and other defenders of the Arizona law vociferously contend that it won't target Latinos based on the color of their skin. They note that people won't be required to show ID unless they've been stopped by police for some other legal reason. But crime statistics from around the nation have repeatedly shown that cops are already more inclined to stop minorities than whites. It even happens in liberal New York City.

The New York Times published a report last week showing that blacks and Latinos are nine times more likely to be stopped by New York City police officers than whites. And it's not because blacks and Latinos are more likely to break the law. In fact, the *Times* reported that even though police stop them far more often, blacks and Latinos are no more likely to be arrested than whites. In other words, police are targeting minorities because of the color of their skin.

"Once stopped, the arrest rates were virtually the same," the *Times* reported. "Whites were arrested in slightly more than 6 percent of the stops, blacks in slightly fewer than 6 percent." In other words, 94 percent of blacks, Latinos, and whites were stopped by police even though they weren't breaking the law.

If racial profiling is common in New York, you can bet it's even more so in conservative Arizona. And now police there have another reason to target Latinos — to check if they have the proper papers. And you can bet that in the rare instances when whites get stopped for "furtive movements" or "fits a relevant description," they won't be required to prove their citizenship, either.

Meanwhile, UC Berkeley students ended their ten-day hunger strike that began as a protest against Arizona's new law and ended when Chancellor **Robert Birgeneau** indicated he may soften his stance against students involved in the **Wheeler Hall** sit-in.

Judge Rules for Students Over Teachers

In what could become a landmark decision that permanently alters California's educational system, a judge ruled last week that some Los Angeles public schools can ignore teacher seniority when laying off instructors because the needs of low-income and minority students are paramount. The case was brought by the **American Civil Liberties Union**, which argued that seniority rules force districts to lay off newer instructors who typically work at schools in low-income areas, resulting in a revolving door of teachers at those schools. Low-income and minority children, as a result, are deprived equal access to a quality education.

If the judge's ruling holds up and is expanded statewide, it could eliminate teacher seniority rights in layoffs, providing school districts with a way to get rid of burned-out instructors that they're now required to keep. It also could have significant effects on school districts such as Oakland, where the revolving door of teachers in the city's low-income flatland schools has been a decades-old problem, depriving tens of thousands of kids access to quality instructors even though those children need the most help.

Governor Schwarzenegger, who supports eliminating teacher seniority rights in layoffs, also proposed protecting K-12 and higher education from more budget cuts last week as part of his latest financial plan. However, the governor's budget proposal also would shred California's already tattered social safety net for poor people, including killing the state's welfare-to-work program.

Richmond and Chevron Settle

The City of Richmond and **Chevron** reached a settlement deal last week that requires the oil giant pay the city $4 million to $13 million more each year than it does now for the next fifteen years. In exchange, the city will drop its court appeal of a local tax measure that would have forced Chevron to pay an additional $20 million annually before a judge struck it down. The city also killed a proposed November ballot measure that would have increased Chevron's taxes, and the oil company agreed to drop its plan for a rival measure that would have kept its taxes low and lowered taxes across the board in Richmond, thereby costing the city millions in revenue each year.

Three-Dot Roundup

It's unusual for transit agencies to have a surplus, but **BART** has an extra $4 million to $5 million thanks to a surprise infusion of state cash. The agency also decided last week to hire a new police chief, selecting **Kenton Rainey**, a veteran cop and former Fairfield police chief. BART board members hope that Rainey, who is black, will help heal the racial rift created by the fatal shooting of **Oscar Grant** by a white transit cop. ... And an Alameda couple dognapped their own pit bull from animal control because the animal was scheduled to be put down for biting people. ●

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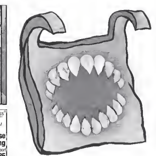

Doug Boehm

ECO WATCH

THE PLASTIC BAG WAITING GAME

East Bay cities that want to ban single-use plastic bags are waiting for a state Supreme Court decision later this year.

By Nate Seltenrich

For three years, Bay Area cities have led the environmentalist charge against **single-use plastic bags**. When San Francisco became the first city in North America to ban the bags from large supermarkets and pharmacies in March 2007, Berkeley and Oakland were only a few months behind. But after Oakland attempted to replicate San Francisco's ordinance in July of that year, it was sued by the plastic bag industry and lost in court. A critical mass of environmental momentum instead became a dead end — and today, more than three years later, the two East Bay cities that helped pioneer plastic bag bans are stuck watching from the sidelines.

But Berkeley and Oakland are not alone; the cycle seems to be repeating itself in Richmond. With strong city council and staff support behind drafting a plastic bag ban of its own, the city contributed $2,500 last July to nonprofit **Green Cities California** in hopes of finding a way around the plastic bag industry. A consortium of plastics manufacturers had defeated Oakland in court by convincing a judge that the city should have completed an expensive environmental impact report before enacting its plastic bag ban. And so Green Cities' solution was to prepare a "**Master Environmental Assessment**" designed to reduce the cost of doing an EIR by providing an all-in-one consolidation of existing literature and research.

But now that the report is out, Richmond may not be making use of it after all. The reason is that the master assessment still requires that cities conduct their own EIRs, and Richmond is scrambling to complete one. "I don't know where the funding would come from to do an EIR," said **Jennifer Ly**, sustainability associate for the city. "We have a really small budget, so if there's any way we can avoid doing an EIR, that would be ideal."

Now all three cities are stuck in an inadvertent game of chicken, each afraid to act for fear of spending unnecessary money — or, alternatively, drawing a lawsuit from the plastic bag industry. Ly said Richmond had been keeping an eye on Berkeley, which up until a couple of weeks ago was planning to move forward this summer with a ban that would also include a surcharge on paper bags, which it hoped would stand up in court without an EIR. However, a city official who asked not to be named because of the issue's evolving nature said that Berkeley abruptly scrapped its plan when its lawyers determined that option wasn't as legally robust as they'd hoped. Now, the official said, Berkeley is considering paths pursued by other cities, and may follow San Jose into completing an EIR.

According to Councilman **Kriss Worthington**, Berkeley first considered a plastic bag ban in 2005, two years before San Francisco's, but wasn't able to enact it before industry opposition became too strong. As a result, it has faced a frustrating series of delays ever since. "The city is trying to create the strongest legal protections for not having the City of Berkeley be sued, and understanding what kind of research might protect you," he said. "We will be persistent, and just because we've been delayed doesn't mean we're not going to do the right thing."

Oakland, meanwhile, has all but given up. "We were sued, and that was sort of the end of the road," said **Becky Dowdakin**, solid waste and recycling program supervisor. "It was clear from the judge and from the attorney's advice that we couldn't just rewrite the ordinance a bit and avoid the whole EIR thing." Estimating the cost of such a report at $150,000 to $200,000 — even with the help of a master assessment — Dowdakin said the city simply didn't have the funds to proceed and would have to wait until a better option came along.

There is one potential solution, and Berkeley, Richmond, and Oakland are all keeping a sharp eye on it. Late last month, the **California Supreme Court** agreed to hear a case involving a proposed plastic bag ban in the Southern California city of **Manhattan Beach**. Its city council approved an ordinance banning the distribution of plastic checkout bags at all retail stores in July 2008. Like Oakland, it was sued by the plastic bag industry for not completing an environmental impact report. The industry used the name "**Coalition to Support Plastic Bag Recycling**" when it sued Oakland, and is going by "**Save the Plastic Bag Coalition**" in its suit against Manhattan Beach. It also has sued Fairfax, Los Angeles County, and Palo Alto and threatened to sue seven others, including Mountain View, Morgan Hill, and San Jose. The industry, however, has not challenged San Francisco's ban, which is still in place.

Manhattan Beach lost at the trial court level, appealed, and then lost again. City Attorney **Robert Wadden** then successfully petitioned the state Supreme Court to hear the city's case. A ruling could be months away, yet no matter the outcome, the consequences will be significant. Either all plastic bag bans will require expensive EIRs, or the bar will be lowered to allow for comprehensive approaches such as the one Berkeley just abandoned. In fact, Worthington said that Berkeley may wait until the court makes its ruling before taking any more chances.

Now all three cities are stuck in an inadvertent game of chicken, each afraid to act for fear of spending unnecessary money — or drawing a lawsuit.

The final piece of the waiting game is statewide legislation that could render local ordinances moot. AB 1998, authored by Assemblywoman **Julia Brownley** of Woodland Hills, would ban all single-use carry-out bags — paper and plastic — in California stores. ■

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FULL DISCLOSURE

DUPLICATION OF SERVICE

AC Transit is planning more sweeping service cuts, but it could save money by dramatically reducing the number of buses that go to San Francisco

By Robert Gammon

AC Transit will consider another round of debilitating service cuts next week. The cash-strapped agency is facing a projected $56 million budget deficit next year and is considering slashing service by about 8 percent system-wide, just two months after making a similar size cut. Although the plan to further reduce the number of buses that serve the East Bay each day will be especially hard on low-income residents, AC Transit appears to have little interest in an alternative proposal that would be less painful — namely, dramatically slashing bus service to San Francisco that duplicates what **BART** already provides.

Few people realize it, but AC Transit operates 24 separate bus lines that cross San Francisco Bay. Many of them are basic commuter lines, but others appear to represent the antithesis of AC Transit's primary mission, which is to provide transportation for those who have no other choice but to take a bus or walk. Several of the lines, for example, take relatively small numbers of well-heeled riders from the East Bay hills to and from San Francisco each day. These lines make only a few stops in upscale neighborhoods, such as Oakland's **Crocker Highlands** district, picking up patrons for a relaxing ride in a plush, expensive coach equipped with WiFi.

Many of these well-to-do riders, in fact, choose to take the Transbay bus because they don't want to slum it on BART with the masses. "Take the B line — everybody's nice, and friendly, and it's not crowded," noted **Jerry Cauthen**, referring to the Transbay line that ferries Crocker Highlands residents to the city and back each day. Cauthen is a former **Muni** official and engineer who has been arguing for the past year that AC Transit should dramatically reduce Transbay service before it cuts any more buses in the East Bay. "They have too many Transbay lines," he said. "It's laughable. It's crazy for the number of people that they serve."

According to the most recent data available, AC Transit took an average of 12,093 people across the **Bay Bridge** each weekday in 2008. That may sound like a lot, but it represented only 5 percent of the agency's total daily riders of 226,855 in 2007-08. BART, by contrast, takes approximately 170,000 riders each weekday through the Transbay Tube, spokesman **Linton Johnson** said, and carries a total of about 343,000 passengers daily on all lines.

Proponents of AC Transit's Transbay service say it's necessary because BART is overcrowded during the morning and evening commutes. And although that may have been true a few years ago, the rising unemployment rate has reduced BART ridership in the past two years. "We could easily absorb every one of them now without a problem," Johnson said of AC

Robert Gammon

Transbay buses offer Wi-Fi, but typically run half-full.

Transit's daily Transbay riders. "Twelve thousand is a hiccup. It's not a big deal. I think we lost 12,000 riders in the last year because of the economy." Johnson also noted that BART has capacity for more riders because during the Bay Bridge emergency closure last year, it carried about 500,000 total passengers a day.

In March, AC Transit cut Transbay service by 16 percent — a substantial reduction. But the idea of slashing it dramatically is not popular among many AC Transit officials. Part of it has to do with the agency's long-running rivalry with BART. Many AC Transit officials, in fact, just don't like BART and view it as the favored son that gets special treatment — and more money — because it serves suburban communities. And they bristle at the idea of cutting the number of bus lines that travel across the bridge. The buses, after all, pre-date the Transbay Tube. "AC Transit is very sensitive about this," noted local transit activist **Joyce Roy**.

Last week, the **Metropolitan Transportation Commission** officially launched a sustainability study that will examine duplicative mass transit service in the Bay Area, including the Bay Bridge corridor. And some AC Transit officials fear that MTC will recommend that AC Transit substantially roll back its Transbay service in favor of BART.

> The average number of riders on a typical Transbay bus was seventeen in 2008 — or less than half of the available seats, according to the most recent data.

At the same time, many AC Transit officials insist that several Transbay bus lines do not, in fact, duplicate BART service. In interviews, AC Transit spokesman **Clarence Johnson**, agency board president **Rocky Fernandez**, and agency board member **Greg Harper** all made that argument. They noted that many of the Transbay buses pick up commuters who do not live near BART stations, and argued that eliminating those lines would prompt more people to drive to BART or across the bridge.

However, there's no doubt that AC Transit would save millions by taking commuters directly to BART — instead of driving them to San Francisco. Cauthen, for example, contends that based on ridership, AC Transit needs no more than six to eight bus lines going to the city each weekday. As it stands now, most Transbay buses run at less than half of capacity. The average number of riders on a typical Transbay bus was seventeen in 2008 — or less than half of the available seats, according to the most recent data available.

On a recent weekday morning commute, Full Disclosure took an F bus from Berkeley to San Francisco. At the Ashby BART station, only one other person was waiting for the bus as dozens of commuters walked into the BART station. A passerby remarked, "Why don't you take BART? It's faster."

It's also cheaper. The F bus cost $4 for a one-way trip to downtown San Francisco compared to $3.50 from Ashby to the Embarcadero station on BART. Once on board the bus, it also became clear that not everyone was going to San Francisco. Several passengers used it as a local bus, because it stops at numerous locations on its way to the bridge. In all, nine passengers used the F for local service, and nineteen, including Full Disclosure, went to the city. At no time during the trip was the bus more than half-full.

As for the return trip, it included just seven passengers. Although it was no longer during the morning commute, the sparse number of riders was not unusual. According to AC Transit figures, the F bus carried an average of 10.5 riders both to and from San Francisco during each trip in 2008.

But board member Harper argued that further cutting Transbay service would be a mistake because those bus lines, despite the relative lack of passengers, are more financially efficient than regular bus routes. And that's true, but that doesn't mean they're not expensive to operate. Transbay buses require about a 70 percent public subsidy compared to the 85 percent needed for local East Bay service. The reason is that AC Transit charges passengers twice as much to go to San Francisco as it does for local service.

It goes without saying that California underfunds mass transit. Nonetheless, regional transportation agencies have no choice but to make the best use of the funds they have. And there's no doubt that cutting Transbay service would save AC Transit much-needed money. Out of every $1 million it costs to run buses across the bridge, taxpayers pay $700,000.

But would substantially reducing Transbay service be enough to bridge the agency's huge budget gap? Not likely. AC Transit officials are still thinking about putting another parcel tax on the fall ballot, and are working to win concessions from the bus drivers union. Moreover, even if the agency dramatically slashes the number of buses crossing the bridge each day, it likely will still have to cut service elsewhere — but not as much as it otherwise would. For example, the agency is talking seriously about greatly reducing weekend bus service in many areas, which would create hardships for low-income residents who don't have cars. If the agency were to cut Transbay service more heavily, those weekend cuts could be lessened.

Stuart Cohen, executive director of **TransForm**, an East Bay transit advocacy group, is no fan of slashing Transbay service. He notes that passengers who leave may never return even after the agency restores service when the economy rebounds. Still, in rough times, when AC Transit is facing no good choices, the agency's first priority is to protect those who would be most hurt by service cuts, Cohen said. "If you have to say what is the primary role of AC Transit: It's local service," he said. "Areas that are predominantly low-income need to have the fewest cuts." ●

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LEGALIZATION NATION

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: 'NO WE CAN'T?'

The prospects for TaxCann 2010 may be dim because fewer young progressives vote in mid-term elections. Plus, the $1 trillion War on Drugs has failed

By David Downs

The **Tax Cannabis 2010** initiative can't count on cannabis' strongest ally — progressives — because history indicates they stay home in mid-term elections, analysts say. Fifty-six percent of Californians favor legalization, but voter turnout will drop dramatically from the historic 2008 presidential election of **Barack Obama**. Obama's election saw 80 percent of registered voters turn out to vote one way or the other, but perhaps 60 percent of registered voters will turn out this year, said professional pollster **Ben Tulchin**.

That drop is expected to include many youthful idealists. "A lot of younger voters voted for the first time, a lot of ethnic voters voted for the first time. That dynamic won't be in play this year," Tulchin said. "Quite frankly, when you go from 80 to 60, the difference in the electorate is the progressives."

And those who do venture there for the main event, the likely gubernatorial election of either Republican businesswoman **Meg Whitman** or former Democratic Governor **Jerry Brown**.

"My experience is candidate campaigns drive turnout," Tulchin said. "They are the highest profile in terms of what people are paying attention to and that drives turnout. Every ballot initiative is along for the ride."

So is Whitman and Brown's stated opposition to reform going to hurt the initiative? It could, Tulchin said, but opinions of politicians are at new lows. "Voters are cynical," Tulchin added. "They're fed up with the status quo."

Driving that cynicism is a cycle of budget crises that California's leaders cannot seem to terminate. California's wrecked balance sheets actually fuel TaxCannabis 2010. Pot sales could mean billions of dollars in local taxes, and there's early proof that TaxCannabis 2010 can amass the campaign funding necessary to advertise that fact. Their direct opponents, on the other hand, don't seem to have much cash for a fight.

When Whitman and Brown tussle over fixing the state budget they help TaxCann by reinforcing perceptions of the fiscal crisis, seventy. Tax revenues from alcohol encouraged the end of Prohibition in cash-strapped Depression-era America. The same dynamic could come into play.

"It's an activity that is already being done," Tulchin said. "If the 'Yes' side can frame this as, 'Let's regulate and tax it to help balance the budget and fund essential services,' the public is open to coming up with creative and alternative ways to raise new revenue."

Still, Californians are notoriously unpredictable. The state banned gay marriage and okayed stem cell research. It prosecutes nonviolent drug offenders while collecting almost $100 million in medicinal marijuana taxes each year. "It all depends on timing and mood," Tulchin noted. "I think it's a very bellwether initiative because of voters' competing motivations. Traditionally, California voters have voted for every tough-on-crime measure on the ballot. It's a pretty consistent pattern that goes against what the initiative is trying to do. With the budget deficit being a fundamental problem, this is a change from the status quo. You can take advantage of cross currents in this election."

$1 Trillion Drug War Has Failed

The Associated Press, using **Freedom of Information Act** requests, figured out the tab for America's **War on Drugs** last week, and checked to see if the war has met any of its goals. The answer: After forty years and $1 trillion, the War on Drugs has failed.

Among the highlights: "$33 billion in 'Just Say No' marketing even though high school students report the same rates of illegal drug use as they did in 1970, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports drug overdoses have 'risen steadily' since the early 1970s to more than 20,000 last year. … $121 billion to arrest more than 37 million nonviolent drug offenders, about 10 million of them for possession of marijuana even though studies show that jail time tends to increase drug abuse. … $450 billion to incarcerate those people in federal prisons alone. Last year, half of all federal prisoners in the U.S. served drug offense sentences."

TaxCannabis 2010 Benefit in Oakland

TaxCannabis 2010 is hoping you'll join it Tuesday, May 25 at 6 p.m. at **À Côté Restaurant** in Oakland for a $99-per-person benefit to include hors d'oeuvre, wine, and cocktails. You'll be able to meet **Richard Lee**, the man behind the Control and Tax Cannabis 2010 Campaign. The campaign expects to need anywhere from $10 to $20 million dollars to win in November. Preliminary campaign finance records show it's off to a good start but have a ways to go to meet their goal.

Cannabis Law Institute in Wine Country

Some of the top medical cannabis lawyers in the country will host a seminar on the rapidly evolving field Saturday, June 5, at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country. Admission is $420. The seminar will focus on developments in medical marijuana law with scheduled speakers to include **Bill Panzer**, co-author of **Proposition 215** and a member of **NORML** board of directors; **Chris Conrad**, cannabis expert; and **Joe Rogoway** and **Omar Figueroa**, co-founders of **Cannabis Law Institute** LLC.

Presentation topics include Motions in Medical Cannabis Defense, Effective Use of a Medical Cannabis Expert, and Common Misconceptions About Medical Marijuana Laws. Organizers state this private event is not open to criminal prosecutors, police officers, or law enforcement. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com
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This column is culled from the blog of the same name.

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LOCAL GROUP SUBMITS LETTER OF INTENT TO EPA REQUESTING GRANT FOR AMCO SUPERFUND SITE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received a letter of intent to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) from the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP). The grant is to be used to help concerned, interested community members understand and interpret technical information developed for the Superfund environmental investigation and cleanup of the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site. The Site encompasses an area of groundwater contamination under the former AMCO Site on 3rd and Mandela Parkway in West Oakland, California.

By law EPA may award only one grant of up to $50,000 to a citizens group at any one National Priorities List (NPL) site eligible for cleanup under the Federal Superfund Program. To ensure that all communities views are represented, EPA encourages all concerned groups and individuals interested in applying for the grant to consolidate and file a group application with WOEIP. **To participate in filing a group application, notify the contact below within 30 days:**

Brian Beveridge, Co-Director
WOEIP
1747 14th St, Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 257 5640
brian.woeip@gmail.com

Applicants who wish to file for the grant separately must submit a "Letter of Intent" to EPA within 30 days of this notice. EPA will then extend the deadline by an additional 30 days to receive all completed applications. If no additional groups or individuals submit "Letters of Intent," WOEIP can submit a grant application at the end of the initial 30-day period.

For additional TAG information and a grant application form, visit EPA's website at [illegible] or contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator listed below.

Send Letters of Intent or TAG Applications:

Leana Rosetti, Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 9 (SFD-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
rosetti.leana@epa.gov
(415) 972-3070
Fax: (415) 947-3528

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Victoria Kolakowski

A HOT SEAT FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY JUDGE

Victoria Kolakowski has turned an obscure race into a high-stakes battle as she vies to become the nation's first transgendered elected judge

By Rachel Swan

Hayward attorney **Louis Goodman** was judicious in choosing words to describe **Victoria Kolakowski**, his opponent for Alameda County Superior Court judge. "Vicky's gender is interesting," he said. "But I don't think that's what this campaign is about. I don't think that she thinks that's what this campaign is about."

Goodman is wrong about the latter point. At a campaign fund raiser last week, Kolakowski highlighted gender identity as a hallmark of her political appeal. Approximately one-third of the county's 68 superior court judges are women, she said. None are openly gay. Kolakowski defies all the norms because she's not only an out lesbian — she's also transgendered. If elected on June 8, she would be the first transgendered woman to ever serve in a US superior court.

That historic slant has turned a normally obscure race into a hotly contested election. In Alameda County, it's actually quite rare to have an open election for superior court judge. It's even rarer for such elections to draw any sort of attention from the public. Most of the time the incumbent goes unchallenged and never appears on the ballot. And when a vacancy arises, the governor usually appoints someone — typically a tough-on-crime prosecutor. Even Democratic governors, after all, don't want to appear "soft on crime." As a result, voters get few opportunities to elect a superior court judge whose views reflect the progressive politics of the East Bay.

But in this particular case, a superior court judge retired after the filing period, resulting in one of those scarcely seen open seats. Three people decided to vie for it. One, **John Creighton**, is a county prosecutor. Another, Louis Goodman, is a lawyer in private practice. The third, Kolakowski, is an administrative law judge whose LGBT identity and progressive values are of a piece with her public image.

Judges are supposed to be impartial, so it goes against the grain to run on any kind of political platform. But Kolakowski really had no choice since her gender identity is intrinsically political, whether she talks about it or not. "I think in a post-Prop 8 world, knowing that someone is LGBT makes an important point," said former Oakland City Council hopeful **Sean Sullivan**, a leader in the East Bay's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. "I don't think Vicky's hiding her transgendered lesbian status, or should hide it."

For Kolakowski, being the first in something is a huge deal. Born to a factory-worker father and bookkeeper mother, she grew up in working-class Queens, New York, and was first in her family to attend college. Kolakowski got her law degree from **Louisiana State University**. She transitioned on April 1, 1989, during her last year of law school. "I was living a dual life," Kolakowski recalled during a recent interview. "I was living at home as myself, and at school I was being a guy. I decided I couldn't do it anymore. I came home on a Friday and said, 'Starting tomorrow, I'm me from now on.'" That Monday, she showed up to school in a dress. Drama ensued.

Because of Louisiana's primitive attitude toward transgendered people, Kolakowski said that after she came out, nobody would talk to her. At one point, a group of male students approached to ask if she had changed her gender to placate her wife, who had come out as a lesbian. (Kolakowski also identifies as lesbian.) The state denied her bar application on the grounds that she was "not of sound mind." (She appealed to the state supreme court and got a green light within 48 hours.) Strangest of all, the university prohibited her from using either the men's or women's restrooms — instead, she got a special key to the chancellor's private bathroom, which was the only separate facility on the law school campus. "No matter where I was, I had to go to this isolated place on campus," Kolakowski recalled. "I had to plan my bathroom trips very well."

Bathrooms are a kind of bottom line in the debate over civil rights for transgendered people. "That's the big scare thing," Kolakowski said. It's often the main justification for not employing a transgendered person, or for shutting that person out of a venue. And it's a legal battle that transgendered people don't often win, Kolakowski assured. "Where people tend to define lesbian and gay people based on sex acts, their concern about transgendered people is that we go to the bathroom — that they're opening up the bathroom to all sorts of weirdos."

One would think that fighting for a basic human right would turn Kolakowski into an angrier — or at least more partisan — legal figure. But she took a fairly broad approach to the field. After moving to Berkeley in 1990, she spent roughly a decade in private practice litigating a variety of cases. "I worked in land use, zoning, environmental issues, corporate law, contract law, bankruptcy, and divorces," she said. From 2003 to 2005 she worked with the state to negotiate $3 billion worth of settlements from large power companies. After three years of extracting refunds from the energy crisis, Kolakowski became an administrative law judge at the state **Department of Insurance**, and then switched to the **California Public Utilities Commission**, where she works today.

But the transgendered issue would always linger in her career. In the late 1990s, Kolakowski got involved in a case involving a female-to-male transsexual who allegedly broke into his friend's home after the friend locked him out. The defendant's lawyer was also male-to-female transsexual, which further complicated their case. "They kept referring to the client as 'she,' using female pronouns, and they also referred to my co-counsel as 'he,'" Kolakowski said about the prosecutor and the judge. And then during a break, the defendant went to a men's restroom and a police officer dragged him out, making pejorative remarks. That set the ball rolling for a much bigger battle. Kolakowski and her colleague filed a complaint with the Berkeley Police Review Commission, which ultimately resulted in a four-hour sensitivity training for all police officers in the city.

Kolakowski sees her judicial campaign as a kind of "sensitivity training" in its own right. "Transgendered people frequently interact with the legal system," she explained. "From name changes to family law issues. We are frequently the victims of violence. We're chronically under-employed, so many of us work the streets." Transgendered folks often appear in court as criminal defendants, she continued. Seldom do they sit on the other side of the bench.

Not surprisingly, many of Kolakowski's speeches center on her trans-identity. She talks about Alameda County being the place where Gwen Araujo was murdered eight years ago. She recalls her own experience, being ostracized in law school and excluded from the Louisiana state bar. Last week, she also read part of an editorial from the conservative *The Washington Times*, which advocated for discrimination against transsexual teachers.

> Kolakowski sees her judicial campaign as a kind of "sensitivity training" in its own right. "Transgendered people frequently interact with the legal system."

Victoria Kolakowski is a sharply dressed middle-aged woman whose gabby, personable style makes you forget that she's running for office. She's also a political lightning rod. She's taken an issue that's inherently controversial, and turned it into a rallying point. She's also put her opponents in the awkward position of having to address the LGBT issue in a race that seldom has any social dimensions at all.

It remains to be seen whether being the first at something is an apt qualification for superior court. Kolakowski stops short of that assertion. But she won't hesitate to use words like "historic" or "transform" in any of her campaign speeches. She's a master at stirring emotions. "I'm the best candidate based on the merits — I'm not in any way taking away from that," Kolakowski said. "But there's a historic element in this case as well." ●

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Jabari Brown Soldiers On

Oakland High's talented guard enters the maelstrom of elite amateur hoops.

By Sam Lord

Brown is considered one of the top thirty players in America for his age group

Joseph Sarell

Near the end of a March state playoff game, underdog **Oakland High** is tied with host **De La Salle** of Concord, a perennial Northern California basketball power. Oakland's speed, quickness, and athletic creativity were enough to hold a small lead through the game's first three periods. But one minute into the final frame, De La Salle's "green machine" — a troupe of crew-cut teens operating with assembly-line precision in silver and green uniforms with American flags patched between the shoulder blades — has methodically worked its way back to even the score. Needing a basket to regain its edge, Oakland rebounds the ball to star junior guard **Jabari Brown**. Brown's gait is bouncy as he dribbles across mid-court and surveys the nine players laid out before him.

Just beyond the three-point line, Brown breaks his defender down with a low right-to-left crossover dribble and drives down the lane. Leaping toward the rim, he absorbs a body blow from De La Salle's big center. Brown double-clutches to flip a soft shot off the glass backboard. The ball drops through the net. The referee's whistle blows. Two points — plus a foul shot. Brown raises his fists above his shoulders and flexes his tattooed biceps toward the Oakland High bench as his teammates shout and celebrate. The Oakland fans go wild.

But De La Salle's grinding execution puts the machine back on top. It leads by two with a minute remaining when Brown receives a pass on the right wing. He squares up to the hoop and unspools a long three-pointer. It's a gutsy shot. Oakland still has time to work for a better look against the stingy De La Salle defense, but if he makes it he can put Oakland in control for the final minute rather than simply tying the game. Brown's shot rims out. Seconds later he has to force another contested three. He double-pumps and splays his legs in hopes of eliciting a foul call from the referee. But no whistle comes and the shot bounces off the top of the backboard, effectively ending Oakland High's season. Brown spends the game's closing seconds at the end of the Oakland bench, his head bowed in his hands and his black jersey pulled up over his eyes. After the final horn sounds he puts an arm around a distraught teammate, then shakes hands with the De La Salle players and coaches and disappears into the locker room.

It's an unceremonious ending to a tumultuous season for Brown, considered by some to be the Bay Area's best basketball prospect since **Leon Powe** — now a member of the NBA's **Cleveland Cavaliers** — graduated from **Oakland Tech** in 2003. At a muscular six-feet-four inches, the seventeen-year-old Brown is ranked among the top thirty players in America for the graduating class of 2011. During the summer he plays for the elite Nike-sponsored **Drew Gooden Soldiers** traveling team, which competes in front of famous college coaches in tournaments and events around the country and counts several NBA players among its alumni. "I rank Jabari right up there at the top," says Soldiers director **Mark Olivier**. "The sky is the limit for that kid." A recent **ESPN.com** evaluation of Jabari is similarly effusive. "Brown has everything you want in a shooting guard," it reads.

But as an in-demand junior, Brown is at the heart of the maelstrom that elite-level high school basketball has become. The distinction between amateur and professional has become increasingly murky with the advent of multimillion dollar contracts for teenagers, nationally televised high school games, the rise of shoe-company-sponsored summer travel teams, and the proliferation of scouts who scour grade-school gyms across the nation in search of promising new talent. Brown himself played for three different high schools in a year, winning a California state championship with **Salesian High School** of Richmond his sophomore year before finishing his junior season at Oakland High. In between, he spent half a season at **Findlay College Prep**, a controversial Nevada prep school.

Brown's transient year and the resulting clamor, which included newspaper write-ups in multiple states and vitriolic online message board gossip, are emblematic of the changing culture. "I think all this stuff, it's too much," says Jabari's father, **David Brown**, who grew up in San Francisco and played at **Morehouse College**. "When I was coming up, there just wasn't that kind of situation. There just wasn't. It's just so different, and I think it's too much for these kids."

Since 2006, the NBA has required players to be at least one year removed from their scheduled high school graduation date to play in the league. So in 2008, a high school star named **Brandon Jennings** became the first American to skip college to play professionally in Europe, joining a team in Rome for a year while waiting to become eligible for the NBA draft. After playing a season in Italy, Jennings was drafted tenth overall and signed to an NBA rookie contract worth more than $2 million per year. In 2009, another high school phenom named **Jeremy Tyler** took Jennings' idea a step further. Tyler skipped his senior year of high school altogether to join an Israeli pro team, with the idea of jumping to the NBA two years later once he became eligible. But while Jennings had flourished abroad, Tyler struggled on and off the court. He ended up quitting his Israeli team mid-season and his future is now in limbo.

On a Tuesday evening back in Oakland about a week after the season-ending loss to De La Salle, Jabari Brown looks more like a regular teenager than a businessman who plies his trade in basketball. In the house on a hill behind the **Grand Lake Theater** where his family has lived for the better part of two decades, Jabari and two friends play the **NBA 2K10** PlayStation video game. They rib one another and talk about lifting weights later. "How hungry are you?" asks Jabari's mother, **Fannie Brown**, before telling him to wake his napping brother soon. In the adjoining living room, David and Fannie begin discussing the college recruiting process. On the low coffee table between them, glossy recruiting mail from dozens of universities sits stacked in neat piles. Most of the nation's top programs are represented, including the **University of Kentucky**, the **University of Florida**, **Marquette University**, and **Gonzaga University**. Trophies dating back to grammar school overflow from one corner of the living room. Eventually Jabari wanders in, dressed in basketball shorts and socks. He sprawls his large frame sideways in a big armchair, periodically text messaging on his frequently vibrating cell phone.

Jabari has stood out in basketball since grammar school. Tall and strong for a guard, he's equally capable of throwing down vicious tomahawk dunks, taking defenders off the dribble, or stroking deep three-pointers. Moreover, he plays with a cerebral understanding of angles on the court and of how plays and situations will develop that's unusual for a player of his age and talent. It's a precocious package of size, skill, and athletic ability. Brown says he was "really excited" to receive his first recruiting letter from the University of Arizona, before he had even entered high school.

As a middle schooler, Jabari was recruited to play for the Drew Gooden Soldiers, the Bay Area's highest-profile travel team in the **Amateur Athletic Union** (AAU). One of the premier travel teams in the nation, the Soldiers have produced a disproportionate number of NBA players, including **LeBron James**, arguably the world's best basketball player and one of its most marketable celebrities. The Soldiers also have sent more than a hundred kids to college programs. The current Richmond-based Soldiers team includes, in addition to Brown, top prospects from Oregon and Arizona, and plays a nationwide April-through-July schedule. "It's a really high-level team, probably ranked in the top five or ten in the country," said Soldiers director Mark Olivier. "We deal with a lot of elite kids."

David Brown says a friend initially cautioned him against sending his son to play for the Soldiers, telling him the team steals kids from other organizations, doesn't care about all its players, and is wont to push formerly featured kids down the bench when a new hotshot is brought in. "I took it with a grain of salt initially, but a lot of what he told me has come through," Brown said. He maintains a skeptical detachment when discussing the organization but admits that since letting his son play for the Soldiers, Jabari's experience with the program has been generally positive and his son has excelled on the court.

The Amateur Athletic Union is a vast network of sponsored and un-sponsored traveling teams that play in events around the country during the spring and summer. Since the late 1990s, summer basketball has come to be regarded as an almost-essential way for ambitious young players to garner the attention of scouts and college coaches. "It's a high-level recruiting vehicle that serves a purpose," said **Sonny Vaccarro**, a driving force behind the emergence of summer basketball, an advisor to Brandon Jennings and Jeremy Tyler during their stints overseas, and the subject of an in-development **HBO** film starring **James Gandolfini**. "I for one agree with it, because it gives kids with extraordinary ability a platform."

But not everyone is comfortable with summer ball's rise to prominence. AAU coach and basketball trainer **Phil Handy** played professionally in the NBA and overseas. He's trained dozens of pros, including the first and second overall picks in last year's NBA draft, and worked with Jabari Brown, as well. After launching his travel team four years ago, Handy says he was surprised and dismayed to see what the circuit had become since he was a player. "I think in AAU ball across the country right now, there's maybe about 30 percent of the programs that are really good for the kids and have solid intentions," he said. "The car is before the horse with AAU ball, so to speak. Lots of kids are getting a raw deal with some AAU programs. They don't always help the kid. It's more about what can the kid do to help the program raise its profile than what can the program do to make the kid better, to help him improve."

AAU did exist when Handy was coming up as a high school star in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but he says it was a markedly different world. "You didn't have this big business where each tournament costs $900 per team and you bring in four or five hundred teams for tournaments where all the major scouts are going to be." Players and their families are typically expected to pay for a portion of these entry fees, plus transportation, lodging, etc. Not surprisingly, the concerns that Handy and others have with today's AAU revolve around money.

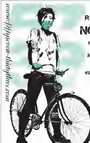
Handy says the sponsored AAU programs, flush with shoe-company cash, are usually the most predatory and least well-intentioned. "They have the most money," he said. "They can go after the elite kids, all of whom want to play on elite teams, get free shoes, get free gear. Nowadays, AAU is going through a phase where a lot of people say, 'This guy's going to be a really big player going to play in the NBA, and that's going to be future dollars for me.'"

One of the Soldiers founders, **Calvin Andrews**, is now senior vice president at a major sports management agency that represents some forty NBA players, including a former Soldier. In 2008 Andrews was suspended from representing NBA players for one year upon allegations that his company had funneled tens of thousands of dollars to college star **OJ Mayo**, who was briefly a client of Andrews, until the recruitment story broke.

The murkiness surrounding summer ball — on one hand it's a necessary vehicle for a player looking to showcase his talent, and on the other

After Brown transferred back to Oakland, the online message boards took him to task.

Joseph Schell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Courtesy Brown Family

Jabari, right, joined his brother Jamal on the Oakland High School team

it introduces players to the more shadowy side of amateur basketball — has led to a complicated set of decisions for the Brown family. "The reason that Jabari's still there is that Jabari wants to be there," explained Fannie Brown, seated in the family's living room. David added, "His take is: 'I know what the Soldiers are all about. I know the good, I know the bad and the good is that they can put me on the court in the big events where I can be seen.'"

Partly as a result of his performance with the Soldiers, Jabari was offered a spot last year at Findlay Prep, a Las Vegas-area prep school famous as a basketball talent factory. For Brown, it was a golden opportunity for more exposure and top-flight competition, with national television appearances on ESPN and a cross-country schedule. Findlay players regularly land at the nation's best college basketball programs. In its short existence, the team has suited up players from numerous foreign countries including Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Australia, and Croatia. "It will be hard but something I'm willing to do to make that sacrifice," Brown told a local newspaper last June, three months after winning a state championship with Salesian. "I want to be successful."

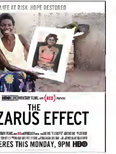
Even for Brown, a blue-chip prospect coming off a stellar season, the move to the controversial Findlay was a big jump, both on and off the court. During the 2008-2009 season, while Jabari Brown was leading Salesian to its state championship, Findlay played in eight different states and logged some 30,000 air miles. Findlay Prep was founded and is financed by **Cliff Findlay**, a Las Vegas automobile tycoon and University of Nevada Las Vegas athletics booster who started the team as a vanity project of sorts in memory of his late parents. Lacking an actual campus of their own, Brown and his teammates attended class at the nearby **Henderson International School**, where Cliff Findlay and his cohorts paid each player's $17,000 tuition. While his mother, father, and younger brother remained back home in Oakland, Brown lived with his teammates and an assistant coach in a five-bedroom house outfitted with wireless Internet, cable televisions, and two fully stocked refrigerators. The house, player tuitions, coaches, and nationwide schedule comprise an operation with annual costs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, a budget only partially offset by a Nike sponsorship.

It's paid off, as the Findlay Pilots have won two straight **ESPN RISE National High School Invitationals**, an end-of-season tournament widely regarded as a de facto national championship. It's also garnered the program a substantial amount of criticism, but head coach **Michael Peck** is unapologetic. "The last time I checked, this is America," he said. "Kids and parents have the right, if they don't feel comfortable or don't like the public school they're zoned toward, to go somewhere else. Our program offers a great opportunity for development and exposure. It's not about our program or our school. It's about the kids. People are always going to be hating on it and that's fine. I can't control it. All I know is what we're doing is good for us."

For a while, Jabari seemed to be doing well at Findlay. He continued to succeed in the classroom and, as the Pilots began the 2009-2010 season ranked first in the nation, Brown averaged 16.8 points per game, good for second on the star-studded team. But the pressure was intense and midway through the season things began to deteriorate. The death of a cousin and close friend — in addition to an ailing terminally ill grandmother — hit Brown especially hard living away from his family. Meanwhile, on the court, Brown and his coaches disagreed over his commitment to defense and hustle and Brown saw his playing time abruptly decrease. Brown felt like he was ramping up his effort level as Peck and the other coaches requested but they didn't find it satisfactory, even though Peck said he still regrets Brown's departure. Brown says he approached the coaches multiple times to find a solution, but to no avail. "You wonder why you don't play?" Peck yelled at Brown in a timeout during one game, which was caught in an online documentary that chronicled the team's season. Brown raised his eyebrows and palms apologetically and opened his mouth to speak. "*Don't* give me excuses!" Peck screamed and pointed Brown toward the bench. Just after the new year, Brown packed his bags and left Findlay. He enrolled at Oakland High, his local public school where his younger brother **Jamal Brown** plays basketball.

Sprawled over the easychair in his parents' living room about a mile from the Oakland High campus, Jabari reflected on his time at Findlay. "It was a good experience," he said grudgingly. "I think it opened my eyes to a lot of things. Off the court it helped me, not being with my parents, not being as dependent. And then you kind of see that the higher up it is, the more it's a business. At the top it's kind of cutthroat. There's a sense of team but then, at the same time, it's kind of like, 'I gotta get mine, I gotta do me.' It's kind of like you want to be unselfish, but then at the same time you have to have a little bit of selfishness to be able to make it at that level."

Asked if moving away on his own at sixteen was difficult, Jabari adjusted himself in his chair and struggled to think of what to say. "I always knew I wanted to be back at home, but I had to do it to become better as a player. But when things started to go south, it was like I really wanted to be at home anyway so if things aren't going well then I might as well go back to where people care about me and where I can be with my family again."



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Courtesy Brown Family

David and Fannie Brown support Jabari's dreams but worry about all the scrutiny.

When Jabari came back to Oakland midway through the November-to-March high school season, his family was surprised at the amount of attention the move received. "I didn't expect it," David Brown said. "I thought somebody would say, 'Oh, he's back home.' But they were trying to get TV cameras at the school the first week he was back and we said, 'No, just let the kid come back home and settle in.'" Oakland High won its first two games with Jabari back, and he averaged nearly 30 points per contest. But then, just before his third game, Brown's tumultuous season took yet another turn. An unknown source raised questions with the California Interscholastic Federation about the legitimacy of Brown's transfer to his second team of the season and third high school in eight months. The review meant Brown would have to sit out until the matter was resolved. Just before a game against **Skyline High**, Oakland coach **Orlando Watkins** broke the news to Brown. "He was suited up and ready to go," Watkins recalled. "I had to walk in the locker room and tell him, 'You can't play.' He just looked at me like, 'What? Why?' It was tough."

As the federation reviewed his change of residency and a hardship waiver that would allow him to transfer back to his hometown, Brown, dressed in street clothes and often massaging a basketball in his palms, watched Oakland High's games from the end of the team bench. He was eventually allowed to play again two weeks later, but the attention had nearly reached a breaking point. Anonymous posters on online message boards denigrated Brown's character and questioned his family's motives and values. Meanwhile, the heckling at games became more and more cruel and the rumor-mongering in basketball circles grew — that Brown was selfish, lazy, and egotistical, or not good enough to hack it at Findlay, or that his recent spate of transfers epitomized everything wrong with high school sports.

One message board thread about the move on the popular **NorCal Preps** web site was dozens of posts long, many of them harshly questioning or lambasting Brown. Among the much milder posts on other boards, a poster called **JerryWayne** commented "sounds like someone wasn't a fan of hard work," while another called **Mike Zillion** weighed in: "Don't have any idea what the specific story is, but Brown's father is supposed to be a real pain to deal with."

The vitriol got so bad for Brown that at one point Watkins told him to take a few days off practice because he was starting to treat something meant to be fun like a job. "I just saw this kid that was just being overwhelmed by stuff that kids shouldn't have to deal with," Watkins said. David Brown agrees that the effect on Jabari was marked. "I'd never seen him that upset since he was a little kid, so I was worried about him for a while."

Basketball trainer Phil Handy, who in addition to training professional basketball players also works with a number of younger players, said the experience of spiteful online gossip isn't unique to just Jabari. "I've seen a handful of other kids over the last several years get it stuck to them pretty hard," he said. "I think a lot of that falls back on how much people really know about these individual kids. They're publicly passing judgment and forming opinions that 99 percent of the time are not accurate."

David Brown agrees. "It's a weird phenomenon because some people seem like they're on those message boards all day long," he said. "All the character assassination that goes along with him coming back home, that's the piece that really angers me." Nonetheless, the father added later, the negative attention "doesn't make me regret who he is."

Of course, simply ignoring what happens online would be one option, but Jabari's mother points out that's harder in practice than in theory in the Internet age. "Kids have the world at their fingertips where we didn't," Fannie said. "Then you get people blowing up your text messages and if you didn't see it somebody else did and it'll get back to you some way." Sitting on the family's living room couch, David Brown describes the effect the past year has had on his son. "He's much more cynical now than he has been in the past."

As the conversation turns to the message board gossip and rumor mill, Jabari appears to grow increasingly uninterested and uncomfortable. He checks his phone more often and glances at the virtual basketball game being played in the next room. His long-sleeve T-shirt covers the tattoos on his arms and shoulders. But up close, sprawled on the big chair in his socks, he looks a couple years younger than he does on the basketball court.

The clicking of joysticks can be heard in the next room. Jabari fires off a quick text message, then stands up, stretches, and turns toward the TV room. "Can we talk in here so I can play?" he asks. He pauses for a second, then pads over to the couch next to the television in the other room and sits down.

Before long, his critical final season of AAU ball will kick into high gear. The online recruiting rankings will update and the message board posters will continue to do their thing. But for now, sitting in his parents' den, Jabari Brown is just a normal teenage kid playing video games with his friends. ●

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CULTURE

LOWRIDING WITH THE COPS

A former revolutionary attempts to smooth the relationship between youth and police with a tricked-out cop car

By Madeleine Baran

Oakland's Fruitvale district once swarmed with lowriders. Before imported palm trees and politically correct street names, East 14th on a summer afternoon was a red carpet for the pageant of '75 Oldsmobiles and '54 Chevy Bel Aires, their two-tone paint jobs reflecting admiring faces and their bumpers just skirting the asphalt.

Where the lowriders rolled and bounced, the law followed or preceded, and the intersection of Fruitvale Avenue and East 14th Street was a strategic waiting point for motorcycle cops with ticket books at the ready to cite a modified vehicle. "All they was doing was they stayed in one corner and write a ticket to every lowrider that was driving around here," recalled **Jose Ortiz**. "And in those days, there was a lot of lowriders driving around here." Ortiz, a Fruitvale resident since he left Puerto Rico 33 years ago, said he never got cited for his '63 Impala Super Sport, but as the leader of a car club and the father of teen boys, most people he knew did.

Ortiz scratched his memories while standing in **Sin Mex**, the body shop his son runs that no longer installs hydraulic suspensions at the rate it once did on a street no longer called East 14th. Former lowriders have families and drive minivans. Anti-cruising signs are gone from Lake Merritt, and the **Oakland Police Department** is more concerned about sideshows than modified cars.

The cops and the cruisers reached a truce. And if there is a white flag to mark the armistice, it's parked right before Ortiz's polished black shoes: the Oakland police lowrider.

An original 1991 **Crown Victoria**, last driven by Officer **Miguel Soto** when he was killed on duty in 1994, the car was modified by the sweat, money, and parts donated by Ortiz, his partner **Louis "Big Lou" Feliciano**, and their car club **Street Inspiration**. A mechanic polished the exterior while Ortiz, his black suit setting off a salt and pepper moustache and gold chain with his nickname **"Cheo"** hanging around his burly neck, showed off the bells and whistles — a six battery-powered hydraulic suspension, ten switches on a translucent blue joystick, four sub-woofers in the trunk, and a working police siren and emergency lights.

The flashy stuff is for the kids. What matters to Ortiz is their reaction, their desire to approach a police car they would normally flee, like the teens who stopped on the sidewalk to take pictures with their cell phones as we talked. In the fifteen years since OPD donated the car, Ortiz has maintained its polish and service through his organization **Community Outreach Program Alternatives** with the mission of connecting natural enemies of the urban habitat — law enforcement and youngsters — with the lust of hydraulic suspension.

"When you drive a regular police car," Ortiz explained, his words coated in a thick Puerto Rican accent, kids "run away from you. When you drive a machine like this, they're chasing you down to stop and see the car."

Ortiz calls himself a "crime prevention consultant," and the officers and politicians he works with laud him for his youth outreach efforts. But with a revolutionary childhood and a life of sticking his nose up at authority, he's an unlikely fit for the job of smoothing the friction between Oakland youth and the law.

Ortiz came of age in **Puerto Rico** in the 1960s during the growth of the independence movement. A neighboring house was turned into the headquarters for **Rubén Berríos' Puerto Rican Independence Party** and Ortiz became a teenage foot soldier for the cause. At fifteen, Ortiz joined a massive protest at the island's major newspaper, *El Mundo*. The next day, he saw his face all over the media, "playing congas with my neighbor, who was one of the leaders of the independent movement."

Soon after, his mom handed him a ticket to the United States. "I only found out maybe five years ago about my FBI file," he said.

That was only the start of Ortiz's troubles with authorities. A month after landing in the states, he signed up for the army so he could continue his education afterward. But a year later, Ortiz went AWOL, deserted with his new wife to Puerto Rico, and then turned himself in to swaying handcuffs at the Puerto Rican base. "I didn't like taking orders. I was a revolutionary. I was a kid," he said. After a few days in a jail cell, Ortiz relocated to East Oakland, home of his wife's family.

But law enforcement was always close to Ortiz, despite his seeming disdain for authorities. He grew up playing ball in the **Police Activities League**; several cousins in Puerto Rico and New York are on the police force. And once you've seen an officer in uniform pass out drunk in your bathroom as his cousin once did, Ortiz explained, you don't have a problem viewing policemen as real people.

As he settled into his new life in Oakland, where he simultaneously befriended and was harassed by police officers, he made it his mission to open a line of communication between the cops and the community. The car is the culmination of that idea. **Eddie Bermudez**, an OPD traffic enforcement officer and former lowrider during his youth in the Mission District, often drives the car with Ortiz to schools, parades, and block parties. He said it immediately melts the animosity kids feel. "I pull up ... you have all the kids flocking to the lowrider because they relate to something like that." Then, they can have a conversation about resisting peer pressure or staying away from drugs. Or they can just talk about hydraulics, car stereos, and chrome rims.

Long past the heyday of lowrider culture, Ortiz isn't worried about the car's image getting stale. "This car speaks for itself," he said. "It's a magnet." He conceded that his goal is ambitious, that "the incident with **Oscar Grant** gave a black eye to all law enforcement." Even his own son disdains the police.

But for kids who otherwise have no positive experience with the law, Ortiz believes the lowrider is a powerful tool. It will be at this weekend's "**Chrome and Cops 4 Kids**" car show benefiting the Police Activities League. And because Ortiz's program can use all the help it can get, a new tool is in the works for next school year. In the back of Sin Mex, still wearing a scraped up desert tan coat of paint from its tour in Kuwait, is a **US Army Hummer**, ready to be tricked out with police logos and in the schools come fall. ●

Event Details

"Chrome & Cops 4 Kids" happens Sunday May 23 at Bob Drost Harley-Davidson (155 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland), 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/ge/lowrider

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

That's the Jam

Malcolm X Jazz Arts Festival is a concert with the sensibility of a jam session

A lot of summer music festivals — and jazz festivals in particular — have a strong creative impetus, even if they're ultimately just trying to sell tickets. The better ones stretch the boundaries of genre by mixing canonical artists with their younger counterparts. The best ones privilege artistic content over fiduciary interests. Among those, Oakland's **Malcolm X Jazz Arts Festival** stands alone. It's a festival with the sensibility of a jam session. It's free, it's interdisciplinary, and it tends to highlight local artists who all bear some connection to the sponsoring organization, **EastSide Arts Alliance.** Most importantly, it's set up to encourage collaboration. The point is not to have a tiered lineup of openers and headliners, but to mix people in an interesting way. What results is not so much a concert as a sonic commentary.

Howard Wiley

[illegible]

Saxophonist **Billy Harper** showed up in 2007 to jam with poet **Amiri Baraka** and an ever-evolving combo called the **Freedom Now! Band**. In 2008, R&B singer **Goapele** jammed with trumpeter **Ambrose Akinmusire** and keyboardist **Michael Aaberg.** Last year's lineup featured the **Abraham Burton Trio** and famed Berkeley tenor player **David Murray**, who now lives in France. Murray took the stage with a new iteration of the **Freedom Now! Band** led by saxophonist **Howard Wiley** and **Living Legends** emcee **Bicasso**. They incorporated musicians from all sectors of the jazz ecosystem, said Wiley, including four rappers, two singers, and an MPC player — all culled from Bicasso's Sunday night jam session Bop Gun. Dancer **Traci Bartlow** also appeared with a form of Brazilian footwork that's based on chants and beat cycles.

Freedom Now! had its genesis in 2006, when a group of EastSide artists decided to form a jazz combo that would look large but still have the looseness of a trio. Wiley has led it for several years, usually in the company of trumpeter **Geechi Taylor** and a rotating rhythm section (Aaberg will play keys and **Jaz Sawyer** will hold down drum duties at this year's festival). Whereas last year the band employed a lot of weird instrumentation, this year they'll use a more traditional format, Wiley said, and make the set list more contemporary by throwing in some pop tunes, including an extra-jazzy version of **Mary J. Blige**'s "Just Fine." Wiley assured that he's not a traditionalist per se, even though he's known for doing blues- and swing-based music. He can understand why audiences of his generation won't cotton to jazz unless it has modern elements. "You hear Fred Astaire singing 'Night and Day,'" he said. "You think, 'Damn, that's some corny shit.' Then you hear the way Miles did it."

We sometimes take it as an article of faith that tradition is a static, calcified thing, but to an artist like Howard Wiley, it could go in all sorts of directions. And given that this year's Malcolm X Jazz Fest places the Freedom Now! Band alongside **Henry Clement's Gumbo Band** and **E.W. Wainwright's African Roots of Jazz**, Mary J. Blige might be the tamest thing on the program. Maybe. Saturday, May 22, at **San Antonio Park** (18th Ave. and Foothill Blvd., Oakland). Also featuring **Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars** and **Rara Tou Limen Haitian Dance Company**, along with a hip-hop stage, food court, and graffiti battle. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., free. 510-533-6629 or EastSideArtsAlliance.com

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story type: ebx.ly/malcolmx

ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4938. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway St., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-843-2137. EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

Treasures of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere and more than 12,000 [illegible]. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.; open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: United States of Asian America Festival [illegible] screenings, workshops, poetry, the [illegible] Gallery opening, craft workshops, Indian performances, South Indian classical music, and much more. Events held throughout the month at various San Francisco venues. Through June 13. Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., San Francisco. 415-829-8437. APICulturalCenter.org.

Berkeley Arts Festival [illegible] features experimental and avant-garde performances in a variety of media. May 15-31. Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Malcolm X Jazz Festival With Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All Stars, Howard Wiley & the Freedom Now! Band, E.W. Wainwright's African Roots of Jazz, the [illegible] Stage, [illegible] community [illegible] organizations, the Rara Tou Limen Haitian Dance Company, food vendors, a kids' zone, a hip-hop stage, and an all-day graffiti battle. Sat., May 22, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., free. San Antonio Park, 1701 East 19th St., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/

San Francisco Carnaval Festival [illegible] foods, nonstop music, drumming, dancing, a crowning of the King and Queen, and work by Bay Area artists. Plus a new Kids Zone. Through May 30. Harrison St., between 16th and 24th sts., San Francisco.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

KIDS

Anime Fans Anime screenings group for teens. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 4-6:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Art Classes for Children with Disabilities Ages 5-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Big Dreamer Games & Puzzles for Teens Third Thursday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3222. OaklandLibrary.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts & crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m., $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Color My World A creativity workshop for kids grades 7-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-5 p.m., $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

East Side Teen Book Club Book club for teens and middle-school students. For the current book title [illegible] call 510-535-5720. Third Wednesday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to El-Cerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, classes, swim center, [illegible] services, senior activities, Project [illegible] and more. Daily.

FunStuff4Kids The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants [illegible] leadership and [illegible] skills, and then put them into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own lesson plans and [illegible], such as sign language, singing, [illegible] poems, and [illegible]. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc., Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-521-[illegible]. GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

Harry's Kids: Harry Robinson A minute [illegible] show, children's [illegible] inoculations, health check-ups, blood pressure [illegible], and blood [illegible] screenings entirely free to children. [illegible] physicians [illegible]. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Fourth Monday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4320. Harry Robinson Multiservice Center, 559 38th St., Oakland. 510-415-1910.

Berkeley Self Defense for Kids Certified [illegible] instructor [illegible] teaches these [illegible] just for girls ages 10-16, [illegible] activities, [illegible] yoga, [illegible], and kung fu into a noncompetitive, nonaggressive workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., $15 drop-in rate, $80 for workshop session/month. 510-847-2400. AlbanyKarateForKids.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9200. [illegible]

Lakeview Chess Club Facilitated by Rod Sarno. Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District The district offers aquatics, golf, adult sports (basic [illegible], including soccer, softball, basketball, and volleyball), activities for seniors and children of all ages, and more, at locations throughout Livermore. Call 925-960-2400 for more info. Daily. LARPD.dst.ca.us/activities_fs.html. Livermore Community Center, 4444 E. Ave., Livermore.

National Puppet Celebrity Sing-Along With Micah [illegible] of the National Puppet Theater [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9:15 a.m., $4.95 for kids, $2 for each additional sibling, free for adults and infants. [illegible], 4316 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-7370. TumbleandToss.com

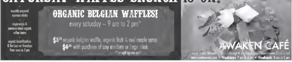
Indian Classical Dance for Kids Beginning classes in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts, 1014 Camelia St., Berkeley. 510-223-2447. [illegible]

Play Groups Children of all ages. Activities provided. For schedule or to register, call 925-249-3033. Daily. Child Care Links, 1020 Serpentine Ln., Pleasanton. 925-249-3005. ChildCareLinks.org.

Pleasanton Recreation and Park [illegible] The [illegible] offers [illegible] courses in everything from [illegible] to fencing, a full schedule of aquatics (including water polo), golf, tennis, theater classes and activities for kids of all [illegible] and more. Daily. PleasantonRec.com

Richmond Recreation and Parks Department Visit CI.Richmond.ca.us/ recreation for a complete list of sports teams, swimming, activities, seniors, and kids' activities, and much more. Daily.

Kids Advisory Board Meeting Call 510-238-3400 for details. Third Thursday of



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PICKS

Pistols & Prayers

Spoken word may seem like an inherently personal medium, but many of its practitioners achieve fame without ever purging their own demons. **Ise Lyfe** is a shining example. He built a solid career with poems about race, homicides in his East Oakland neighborhood, and the disparities of urban life. Lyfe's song "Beautiful" — a conscious rap about fly kids with desolate lifestyles — is probably the closest he ever came to writing a love ballad. But this year, Lyfe decided to look inward. His new solo show, ***Pistols & Prayers***, covers familiar political turf (with sketches about technology and the myth of "post-racial America"), but it also includes a piece about his grandmother's death. The show, based on a book of the same name, even opens with a prayer. It's not a religious prayer, Lyfe says, but a conversation with "nothingness" that's meant to give the whole show a more intimate tone. He recently premiered *Pistols & Prayers* at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre with musical accompaniment from cellist **Michael Fox** and folk singer **Melanie DeMore**, plus **DJ DC** of 106 KMEL. He'll bring it to the **Marion E. Greene Theatre** (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) Friday through Sunday, May 21-23. 7:30 p.m., $12-$20. IseLyfe.com — *Rachel Swan*

Home Theater Festival

Perhaps you caught the latest **Philip Huang** video to make the rounds on YouTube. Called "Rent Boy: The Porn," it includes 54 seconds of crotch shots and titillating close-ups of ... luggage. The ever-salacious Huang applies just enough lubricant to jimmy Bix Rogers into a big suitcase. Luggage porn is just a small taste of what you might find at the **Home Theater Festival**, which runs through the end of May in homes throughout the Bay Area. It kicked off in Huang's South Berkeley apartment with a play called "Guns, Sperm, and Steel." Upcoming offerings include "Live from the TenderNob" (Saturday, May 22, at 8 p.m.) and "Sexological Walking Tour" (Sunday, May 23, at 8 p.m.), which stars erstwhile porn diva **Annie Sprinkle**. Since it bears the Huang imprimatur, this fest has a heavy porn emphasis, tempered by a healthy sense of humor. Its tagline? "Who the fuck needs theaters?" Tickets are $7.99-$14.99 at the door. Proceeds go directly to the artists. For locations, go to PhilipHuangPresents.blogspot.com — *R.S.*

Berkeley Arts Festival

After years of transforming abandoned storefronts into makeshift concert halls, the **Berkeley Arts Festival** finally found a home at — well, another abandoned storefront. This month, festival curators and their artist brethren occupy the former home of **Judah L. Magnes Museum** (2121 Allston Way, Berkeley), while the museum moves to a new, spiffier venue on Russell Street. Up next: A lunch concert by pianist **Jerry Kuderna** on Friday, May 21 (noon, free) and a multimedia show featuring **Dean Santomieri** and **Jolie Ovendale**, who will act out a story [illegible] a sewing machine, a guitar, and a 1938 De Soto hubcap, among other bric-a-brac, on Wednesday, May 19 (8 p.m., $10). Also on Friday, progressive jazz duo **Steve Adams** and **John Hanes** are slated to perform, accompanied by video projections (8 p.m., $10). And rest assured the venue won't look completely deserted, thanks to a solo painting exhibition by Berkeley artist **Bob Brooks**, which runs through May 31. BerkeleyArtsFestival.com — *R.S.*

Ise Lyfe.

Cal Baseball

The **Golden Bears of baseball** are certainly happy to be home. The team has been a world beater at **Evans Diamond** (Oxford St. and Schlesinger Way, Berkeley) but a punching bag on the road. The Blue and Gold hardballers have a final chance to get well when they **host UCLA** for the final homestand of the season, Friday through Sunday, May 21-23. The Bears are still nationally ranked and have an outside chance of qualifying for the College World Series, but to advance they'll have to win wearing their visiting [illegible]. [illegible] catch the action where Cal at least gets last at bats. Fri. 2:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1 p.m. $8, $4 for seniors, free for students/youth. CalBears.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

every month, 5:15 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Time Thursdays Music, friends, board games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild about Books Children's program with stories, music and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. free. Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Oakland Zoo On Saturdays, [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:40 a.m.; Sundays, 1:45 p.m. free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Drop-In Sports Schedule Grades 8-12 and all under 18 welcome; children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Oakland Women's Support Group All bi, lesbian and bi-questioning women, including transgendered women interested in discussing issues related to bisexuality are welcome. Info: [illegible]. Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering [illegible] cross-dressers, and first-timers are welcome. Enjoy friends and a large selection of clothing for the women in you. Stand up, make friends, take photos, and get fashion tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-$20. [illegible] 45979 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont. 510-656-4138. [illegible]

East Bay Front Runners Join the LGBT group's noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant, and the Web site for weekly schedule. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740. [illegible]

Gay Men's discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their advanced [illegible]. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV Positive Therapy Group advance sign-up required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $10-$40 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 240. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: [illegible]/guest speakers. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-8 p.m.; Fridays, 4-8 p.m. free. [illegible] Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Wednesdays Legal Clinic [illegible] and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic, wherein you can sit one-on-one with an attorney for thirty minutes to discuss transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 1801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-865-0176. TransgenderLawCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, salsa, [illegible], nightclub two-step, [illegible] and line dances. First and third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. $10-$20 sliding scale. [illegible] 510-763-1341. TripTheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt [illegible] Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-504-2176. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

Block Jewels, Bob [illegible] group for craft and tennis, Sundays, 6 p.m. free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. BeckettsIrishPub.com.

[illegible] Trivia Date [illegible], 8:30 p.m. free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020. MaggieMcGarrys.com.

Drinking Liberally Political discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Lukas Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Know-mad Trivia Night hosted by [illegible] & Kevin. Mondays, 8:30-10:30 p.m. free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Laugh Club Medical research has proven that laughter is good for you, so come down for a half-hour laugh. Tuesdays, [illegible] facility use fee for residents, $2 for nonresidents. 925-216-4590. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A postgrad discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Rehearsal Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-530-5415. ImaniCC.org.

Pub Trivia with prizes and a cash jackpot. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. free. Pasand Lounge, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. PasandLounge.com

Walnut Creek Socrates Cafe A congenial discussion group. Every other Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. [illegible]@earthlink.net. Philosopher.org. Cafe La Scala, 1665 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7779.

Weekly Sing-Alongs Led by Dale Allen Babcox. Free, drop in; all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Make Oakland For info, visit [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $40/mo for 2 sessions per week, $50/mo for one more per week. Live Oak Center, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6600.

Ladies Night Special Golf Event Oakland for women. Info: 510-848-7373 ex. 222. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. $10 to walk, $25 (cart), $1 of each purchase will benefit the American [illegible] Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, 10 Golf Course Dr., Berkeley. 510-848-7373. TildenParkGC.AmericanGolf.com

LunchMain Drop-In Gym Special Head over to RCC Gym, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, for a lunchtime special. $50 for a 20-visit pass, or $2.50 per visit. Info: 925-373-5771. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Metro Ladies' Golf Game Membership Student organized play days weekly (Wednesdays), two free rules seminars offered annually, quarterly social instruction clinics at a discounted rate, and one free summer bucket of range balls for [illegible] monthly. Wednesdays, 8 a.m. $80 annually with play days [illegible] walking, $35 riding. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. PlayMore.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links Chipping and Putting Clinic Learn distance and accuracy control, how to [illegible] the proper stroke, strategy and more in this clinic [illegible]. Minimum 24-hour advanced reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select [illegible]. Saturdays, 2-3 p.m. $15. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. PlayMore.com

Midnight Soccer [illegible] Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m. free. [illegible]

[illegible] Bike Shoot Weekly Bike Ride Leisurely 15-25-mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Roc-N-Bowl Mondays, 10 p.m. $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

[illegible] Ski Club Weekly Meeting Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round activities include volleyball, softball, tennis, golf and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible]. [illegible] Walnut Creek. 925-937-1210.

Thursday Night Runs East Bay Fun Club presents 3-6 mile runs, with snacks provided by See Jane Run. For info, visit EastBayFunClub.org. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Continues through June 3. free. See Jane Run Sports, 5817 College Ave., Oakland. 510-428-2681. SeeJaneRunSports.com

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SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. San Francisco Giants Fri., May 21, 7:05 p.m.; Sat., May 22, 1 p.m.; Sun., May 23, 1:05 p.m. $9-$290. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Wy., Oakland.

Vs. Detroit Tigers Wed., May 19, 7:05 p.m.; Thu., May 20, 12:35 p.m., $9-$290. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Wy., Oakland.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Eric Bohr's "Five Sticks."

Art Eco

Environmentalist works inaugurate a renovated Mercury 20 Gallery

Gertrude Stein was wrong. There are many "theres" in Oakland. The bigger, better **Oakland Museum of California** has been joined by a cluster of spaces on 25th Street, including the bigger, better Mercury 20 Gallery, which shares an old glass factory with the bigger, better Vessel Gallery (reviewed last week).

Lest this start sounding triumphalist, it should be noted that Eric Bohr's Mercury 21 painting assemblages and Charlie Milgrim's sculptures and installations are adamantly green in their sentiments. In these abstract/conceptual works, Constructivism's utopian geometry gets deconstructed, or at least weathered (like the paintings Munch left outdoors for seasoning), reflecting our current war against oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the Catholic religious calendar, Ember Days are three days set aside seasonally for fasting, prayer, and reflection on our relationship to nature's cycles. Bohr's abstract paintings, with their subdued, wintry palettes, and their creative reuse of salvaged industrial materials, are, despite their beauty, somber reminders of Rust Belt decay and decrepitude (he's from Michigan) and of our ecological short-sightedness. The crossed black beams, fenceposts, or train cars set against scumbled red backgrounds in "Rail" and "2 Sticks" denote danger and collapse, while the ethereal "Ember Days" reads almost as an erased drawing, or a Cubist/Dada collage enveloped in Turneresque fog. Bohr has also shot a video of the landscape rolling past a train window that is curiously compelling. See the USA!

Milgrim abandons her trademark bowling balls (well, almost) with *Spiral Jetsam*, a suite of sculptures and installations deriving from and commenting on **Robert Smithson**'s famous 1970 earthwork, "Spiral Jetty." The spiral is a cosmic symbol recurrent in nature; Smithson's trademark piece, made from boulders in a part of the Great Salt Lake where the water runs from bacterial blooms, is now discolored and sometimes submerged. It's also, ironically, the subject of dispute these days between art mavens (who ignore Smithson's interest in entropic decay) and oil interests (drill, baby, drill!). Milgrim has also been thinking about the Texas-sized Sargasso Seas of plastic jetsam floating in two oceans. Her spiral-shaped wall and floor pieces comprise Styrofoam computer packaging blocks, fallen like dominoes; tossed cell phones, CDs, and floating "pool noodles" (the stuff that floats lane markers, presumably). A painting/photo hybrid superimposes her *Spiral Jetsam* installation onto an image of **Michael Heizer**'s vanished 1969 earthwork, "Munich Depression." All things must pass — except plastic. ***Ember Days*** and *Spiral Jetsam* run through May 29 (along with works by other gallery artists and bigger, better expanded hours) at Mercury 20 Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland). 510-701-4620 or www.MercuryTwenty.com

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/pz/arteco

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space. Intersection Photography and film exhibition featuring work by two married couples, Tina Ostman & Haakon Peace, and Vanessa Woods & Josh Smith. Opening reception: Fri., April 2, 7-10 p.m. Closing reception: Sunday, May 2, 4-6 p.m. Through May 2. 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

Albany Community Center: Child's Play Berkeley artist Roxanne Marlow exhibits her "Childhood" series of oil paintings inspired by snapshots of her own and other childhood. Through July 4. free. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9283.

Albatross Pub. Copper Coffee by Sabae Arauzo Through April 30. free. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Ames Gallery. Outside the Lines Drawings by [illegible], Ted Gordon, Dwight Mackintosh, [illegible] Walker, [illegible] and others. Through June 1. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949. AmesGallery.com.

Ames/Edwards Gallery. "Five years on East 14th Street" Group Art Show Reception Friday, April 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. with champagne and chocolate. Through April 23. free. 1501 East 14th St., San Leandro.

Mosaic Store Lounge & [illegible] Sporting Presenting still life paintings inspired by food and Mount Diablo. Through April 24. free. [illegible] St., Walnut Creek.

Art/Works/Oakland. A Tender Beast Drawings, paintings & an environmental installation by [illegible] and [illegible] Snow. Through April 30. free. 455 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-763-2538.

Berkeley Art Center. Outside Exhibition Three-week silent auction fund-raiser featuring work by more than 75 Bay Area artists. Through May 2. free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Livermore Arts Center. "The Essential Nude" Art Show Collection of figurative art by local artists. Opening reception Thursday, April 15, 7-9 p.m. April 15-18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore. 925-373-5700. LARPD.dst.ca.us.

Cal State East Bay University Art Gallery. 18th Biennial Through April 22. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3299. Class.CSUEastBay.edu/artgallery.

[illegible] Contemporary. Regional Glass-based work by Katsu Tanaka. Through May 15. free. 25 Grand Ave., [illegible] 435-5 [illegible]. [illegible].com.

The Cathedral Gallery of Art. Group exhibition in which artists explore an ancient sculptural technique using a variety of materials. Through May 2. free. Cathedral Building, Oakland. TheOakland.org/gallery.

David Brower Center. The Lake Project: Photographs By Stuart [illegible] Photographs of Owens Lake, a 700-square-mile body of water on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Through May 21. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Eddie Brown Gallery. First Hand: Ten-Show Pottery by five East Bay Mosaic Group show featuring work by [illegible] Norman, Allen Dettof, Kelly [illegible] Mosaic Welch and Nancy Wood. Through April 29. free. 2600 [illegible] Dr., San Pablo. ContraCosta.edu/art/artists.

Expressions Gallery. Think Grand Group Art Show With paintings, photography, sculpture, mixed media, digital art, monotypes, jewelry, glass art, fiber arts, video art and other fine arts and crafts. Through June 4. free. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Frost Center. Center Do I Go From Here? Mark Wagner, Clayton Thiel and Sabine C. Bowker combine sculpture, paintings, and conceptual art. Through April 24. free. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFrostCenter.com.

Garré Winery. Paintings by Judy Rice Through April 30. free. 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-371-8200. GarreWinery.com.

Hayward Mosaic Gallery. Gamer Members Show With photography, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, greeting cards, decorative goods, and jewelry. Through May 1. free. 22464 Main St., Hayward. 510-538-2787. HaywardArts.org.

Kaiser Gallery. [illegible] Recent paintings by [illegible]. Through May 1. free. 492 23rd St., Oakland. 510-605-6045. [illegible].org.

Innovative Projects. The Domestic Show: Domestic Reel Tanchuk and Sherman, Oxford Exhibit features moving drapes and wallpaper. Through May 15. free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-0040. JohansonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery. The Art of Transformation Featuring work by Ehren Tool, Sherri Lynn Wood, Traci Tomioka, and Kate Streeburg, plus a Townsend exhibition in the NIP Gallery of Oakland's artwork from the Artist in Residency program at Children's Hospital. Through May 7. free. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

Krowswork. Tiered Lapse Featuring video and photography by Drew Burgden, Kanja Marui, Pam Minkowitz, and Lizzie Vayman. Through April 10. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland.

Lamorinda Pizza To Go. The Wednesday Night Open-Mic Flyers by Paul Pot Exhibition features more than 150 drawings by Paul Pot, promoting the Wednesday night open-mic series at the Ivanhoe Lounge. Through April 30. free. 1151 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-527-8375. LamorindaPizza.com.

Las Positas College Art Gallery. East Crough/High Brower Art Museum, Invocation Through April 13. free. **Las Positas. Through Museum/Art Gallery Best** Juried art exhibition Oakland by photographer Steve Il II. April 28-May 20. free. 2100 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg. info: 925-439-2181 x3452.

Lucky Ju Ju Pinball Art Gallery. Kimberly Pierce: The Recycling Concepts Earth Day exhibit features paintings with new ideas for recycling. Through May 1. free. 1315 Santa Clara St., Alameda. 510-205-9793. LuckyJuju.com.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices. Paintings from Pour and Lee Paintings by Seamus Berkeley. Through April 30. free. **Photo Visions** Through April 30. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7700.

North Gate Library. Marc Mosaic Photographs Exhibit features Mosaic photographs by Marc R. Isaac, a traveling Magnum photo agency photographer. Through May 1. free. Hearst St. at Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-643-3840.

The Oak Shore Gallery. "A Golden Home" Art Show Savanna Snow & Michael Gill present paintings and installations in a hypnotic haze. Through April 30. free. 411 [illegible] St., Oakland.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch. A Forest For The Trees: Mosaic Documentary Mixed Media works by Jordan Goldstein Through April 29. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakopolis. Re-Fashioned: The Origins of the Clothing Featuring designs by Angelina Dickerson of [illegible], Kasha Ryan of Prenatecouture, [illegible] by Inola Flint, and the Moon by Cassidy Hope Wright & Clay Gutter Brown. Through May 15. free. 441 Twenty-Fifth Street, Oakland.

Mercury Gallery. Cultural Heroes Unidos, Oakland Photographs by Alejandro Chavez. Through April 11. free. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1400. [illegible].com/gallery.html.

Senior Members Gallery. Members in Western: Paintings by Lounge Dyers Opening reception Sat., April 11, 1-3 p.m. April 11-May 15. 330 [illegible], Oakland. 510-384-5344. [illegible].com.

Townsend Center. Craig Ferguson Presenting painting, photography and collage. Through May 1. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu.

Trapwick Gallery. The Unknown Border the Beginning Solo exhibition by Chicago-based artist [illegible]. Through June 26. free. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. [illegible].com.

We Artspace. Kaleidoscape Solo exhibition of collaged geometric forms by Dave Vogel. Through May 2. free. 198 48th St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

Worth Ryder Gallery. "The Dirt Show" and "Eisenhans Award: Melissa Williams" Survey of UC Berkeley ceramics artists organized by Richard Shaw and Ehren Tool, plus a solo exhibition by senior Melissa Williams, recipient of the Eisenhans Award for Painting. April 14-24. free. 116 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-2582.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum. Expressions: Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution Through June 20. **BAM/Matrix** [illegible] Museum, by artist and architect Thom Faulders. Through Nov. 30, 2011. free. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Cal State East Bay. All Aboard! The Impact of Trains on American Outside Exhibit at the Museum of Anthropology explores the history of trains and the creation of the transcontinental railroad. Through June 11. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3000. www.csueastbay.edu.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus Native North America and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native Californian Cultures** This rotating storage collection comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of Native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Institute of Mosaic Art. California Mosaic Artists: Celebrating Diversity Outside Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **Mosaic Art: Dot Portraiture 4**, celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9309. InstituteOfMosaicArt.com.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Projections Multimedia works from the museum's Western collection of artifacts, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab**: interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family Mosaic and exhibitions. Guests add their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

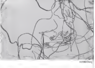
MOCHA — Museum of Children's Art. Once Upon a Time: Western Show Illustrators Then and Now Through May 2. free. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum. Historic Mosaic Saloon With 15 woodrail and 29 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinballs from the Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hasse, Dan Miller, and Oakside Schweig collections. Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m.-midnight; Tuesdays-Thursdays, Sundays, 2-9 p.m. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org.

PICKS

Pacific Rim Sculptors Group

Carin Adams, **Oakland Museum of California** associate curator for craft-ate venues, selected a dozen works by Bay Area sculptors **Pamela Blotner**, **Pamela Merory Dernham**, **Rebecca Fox**, **Young Han**, **Magels Landet**, **Nikki Schrager**, **Adele Seltzer**, **Kate Ruddle**, **Vicki Jo Sowell** and **Susan Leibowitz Steinman** for this small group show, ranging from the minimal and abstract (Fox, Han, Landet, Schrager) to the poetic and representational (Dernham, Seltzer, Sowell) to the conceptual (Blotner, Ruddle, Schrager, Steinman). It's a mixed aesthetic bag, but a diverse and engaging one that could perhaps be expanded and organized thematically once the **Sculpture Court** at 1111 Broadway, curated by OMCA, resumes exhibitions. Large venues for sculpture are rare these days, so for now we're tapping our feet impatiently, like Sonic the Hedgehog. ***Pacific Rim Sculptors Group*** runs through May 27 at **Cricket Engine** (410 Embarcadero Bldg. 3, Oakland). 415-840-0830 or CricketEngine.org. — *DeWitt Cheng*



DeWitt Cheng

No Man's Land Scape

The artificial landscape — with nature contaminated or colonized by culture, seems to be ubiquitous these days, as if nature receded into the mythic past. **Jocelyn Haggenjos**'s small and mid-size enamel paintings on panel depict mountain scenes as cauldrons of blazing color, rich texture, and energetic patterning. Yet while they represent nature's turbulent force with expressionist vigor, they seem somehow synthetic (which might be the point, come to think of it). The paint flows like lava in every direction — independent of underlying form, and never quite congealing — so that we discern peak, plain, mountain range, and sky only through contrast (i.e., shape and location). The most satisfying merger of representation and abstraction is "Beginning Lakes on Monument Valley." "Rockwell Foundation" is the more complex of the two small mixed-media sculptures on view. ***No Man's Land Scape*** runs through June 4 at **Branch Gallery** (455 17th St., Oakland). 510-451-8764 or Bayvan.org. — *D.C.*

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

"Comedy by Mikhael" Fourth Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $10-$20. Englander Sport Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3511. EnglanderPub.com.

Comedy Off Broadway Comedy showcase with a rotating cast. Thursdays, 8 p.m., Fridays, 9 p.m. Continues through May 28. $10. Molt Peart's [illegible] House, [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171, [illegible]

Gil Tsuruya's Comedy Slam Wed., May 26, 7:30 p.m. $16-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Comedy with [illegible] Wed., May 19, 7:30 p.m. $16-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Standup Duel showcase with rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m. $12-$15. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Stand-Up Comedy Night at the Layover Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through June 1. free. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1111. OaklandLayover.com.

Thursday Night Fling With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Tommy Davidson Thu., May 20, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., May 21, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., May 22, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., May 23, 7 p.m. $25-$35. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Berkeley Ballet Theater's Spring Showcase Fri., May 21, 8 p.m.; Sat., May 22, 2 & 7 p.m. $22. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Live Salsa Music Beginning and intermediate dance lessons, plus a live musical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $10; $5 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Smuin Ballet Performing Petit Mort, French Twist, and Songs of Mahler. Fri., May 21, 8 p.m.; Sat., May 22, 2 & 8 p.m. $41-$56. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469, DLRCA.org.

LIVE VARIETY

The Rhapsodists Female artist showcase featuring music, art, theatre, and spoken word. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. $5-$10. Beauty Voice Music & Arts, 2000 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Ann Randolph's Loveland Solo comedy show written and performed by Ann Randolph about a tragedy that befell the ill-fated character Frenny Patts. Directed by Matt Roth. No performances Sat., May 29, or Sat., June 5. Saturdays, 5 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through June 13. $20-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Cafe Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

Curse of the Starving Class Actors Ensemble of Berkeley production of the rural family drama by Sam Shepard. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 22. $12-$15. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

East 14th: True Tales of a Reluctant Player Solo show by Don Reed about growing up in East Oakland with his hustler father and straight-laced mother. Fri., May 21, 8 p.m.; Sat., May 22, 8 p.m.; Sun., June 6, 3 p.m. $20-$35. The Marsh Berkeley at Cafe Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

[illegible] Festival Performance artists throughout the Bay Area stage original theater pieces in their own homes. Check PhilipHuangPresents.blogspot.com for addresses. Starting May 21, Fridays-Sundays. Continues through May 23. $7.50-$34.09.

In the Wake World premiere of Lisa Kron's new play directed by Leigh Silverman. Through June 21. $33-$71. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

A Marvelous Party Starting May 20, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] through June 29. $30-$38. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

[illegible] & Prayers Solo show by spoken-word poet [illegible]. May 21-23, 7:30 p.m., $15-$20. [illegible] Black Box Theater, 551 19th St., Oakland.

Radio Boy Solo show by [illegible] and spoken word poet [illegible] tells the story of a rising genius trapped in a dead-end factory job. Proceeds benefit the [illegible] Center. Fri., May 21, 8 p.m.; Sun., May 23, 7:30 p.m. $10-$20. Twin Spaces, 24 Mission St., San Francisco.

Twelfth Night Melissa Hillman directs this Impact Theatre showcase of Shakespeare's comedy about shipwrecks and gender-bending, set in [illegible] Studios. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 12. $12-$17. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

What Just Happened? Improvisational solo show by Nina Wise with events that happened to her in the past 24 hours. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 22. $20-$35. The Marsh Berkeley at Cafe Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

PICKS

What Just Happened?

It takes guts to craft an hour-long [illegible] that's based solely on the personal terms of the immediate past (i.e., the past 24 hours). Playwright **Nina Wise** is one of the few people in her field who would submit to such a tall order. Wise's new solo show ***What Just Happened?*** is an ever-evolving diary entry about events that happened the day before. She avoids scripts, relying instead on a few jotted notes one hour before. Thus, the show has an impressionistic, stream-of-consciousness quality. Wise deals with world events of the last 24 hours only when they relate to her personal life, yet it's still interesting to experience the ups and downs of her quotidian life. She has a knack for describing events with photographic recall. She parses people from memory and gently mocks them. She creates vast physical environments by offering a series of mental snapshots. Most importantly, she turns a weird eye on the banal, and in the process makes it worth talking about. Through May 22 at the **Cabaret at the Marsh** (2120 Allston Way, Berkeley). $20-$35. TheMarsh.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Nina Wise.

Smuin Ballet's Spring Season

Leaping into the future while honoring its legacy, the **Smuin Ballet** breaks ground with a spring program that includes **Jiri Kylián**'s *Petite Mort* — a notable coup, Smuin is the first Bay Area company and one of the few worldwide chosen to perform this sensuous contemporary piece for six men, six women, a half-dozen fencing foils, and two Mozart piano concertos. Rounding out the triple bill are the world premiere of *French Twist*, a manic, madcap contemporary piece by up-and-coming choreographer **Ma Cong**, and *Songs of Mahler*, a playful "pas vers a" and technically demanding ballet created by the company's late founder **Michael Smuin**. The company performs at **Lesher Center for the Arts** (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) on Friday (8 p.m.) and Saturday (2 p.m. and 8 p.m.), May 21 and 22. $41-$56. 925-943-7469 or LesherArtsCenter.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

Berkeley Ballet Theater's Spring Showcase

There's something wonderful about young dancers. They are blessed by possessing their dreams so young, and though their performances are sometimes less than perfect, they are a joy to watch. Friday through Sunday, May 21-23, watch **Berkeley Ballet Theater**'s young talents, many of whom will pursue professional careers, in an ambitious and varied **Spring Showcase**. The program at the **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts** (2640 College Ave., Berkeley) includes the classic *The Sleeping Beauty*, **Sally Streets**' *Where the Mountains Ash Blooms*, a modern piece set to the company's own **Private Freeman** and a world premiere by former San Francisco Ballet principal dancer **Julia Adam**. Young fans are invited to the **Princess Party** after the Saturday matinee to meet their favorite characters and score a goodie bag. Fri.-Sat. 7 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m. $22. 510-843-4689 or BerkeleyBallet.org. — **C.B.**

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Anthony Kessler
Marc Landes
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Nathaniel Parsons
Michael Patton
Judi Pettite
Jennifer Rhoads
Jason Silverio
Selina Wong

& in the Hive Gallery Clear Forest | new resin works by Michelle Stitz

THEATER

TWELFTH NIGHT IN TINSELTOWN

Melissa Hillman reimagines Shakespeare for Hollywood

By Rachel Swan

Jordan Winer's Malvolio is a hot mess.

Some Shakespeare lovers cite *Twelfth Night* as the most transgressive comedy in the playwright's oeuvre. It has all the familiar signposts — mistaken identity, cross-dressing, wild coincidences, a tiered class system, and a bit of magical realism — but in this case, Shakespeare takes liberties with all of them. His servant characters seem brasher than their counterparts in other plays. His conception of time and space seems more elastic. Most importantly, he uses drag not as a mere plot device, but as a veritable theme. In that sense, *Twelfth Night* is not only transgressive — it's transformative, transgendered, trans-everything. And it's a perfect fit for Impact Theatre, a small Berkeley-based company that's consolidated its reputation for quippy, clever, postmodern plays with oversexed characters. A year after wooing audiences with an Eighties-era version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Impact replicated its success by subjecting *Twelfth Night* to the same formula.

This time director Melissa Hillman — who also conceived last year's *Midsummer* — set the story in Illyria Studios, a natural habitat for washed-out Hollywood actors and their hangers-on. The real Illyria is an island in the western Balkans, apparently the kind of place where an English seaman could be happily marooned for all eternity. Far-flung and idyllic, it provided the perfect setting for stranded mariners to completely reinvent themselves.

In the original *Twelfth Night*, a shipwrecked noblewoman named Viola disguises herself as a boy named Cesario, the better to rub elbows with Illyria's handsome Duke Orsino. In so doing, she accidentally wins the heart of Orsino's love interest, an aloof bachelorette named Olivia. The love triangle becomes a polygon with the entrance of Olivia's servant Malvolio, who, by means of extravagant dress and a starved mannerisms, tries to seduce his mistress.

Show Details
Twelfth Night runs through June 12 at La Val's Subterranean Theatre (1834 Euclid St., Berkeley) $12-$17
ImpactTheatre.com

The Hollywood dream factory seems like a proper analogue for Illyria because it, too, is a land of romanticism and personal reinvention. In Hillman's version, Orsino (played by the fabulous Seth Thygeson) is a swaggering heartthrob whose constant mugging for the camera relays more about his character than any line of dialogue. Viola (Maria Giere) is a button-cute tomboy who serves as Orsino's all-purpose assistant — not just fulfilling regular PA duties, but also giving back massages, accepting unsolicited advice, and listening to him gripe about his ill-fated attempts to win Olivia (Ava Glenn-Johnson). Viola patiently swallows the abuse. She even tolerates an unwanted sexual overture from Olivia, who instantly transforms from an ingénue to a female sex predator.

Impact is camp in the 1970s sense of the word, and in some ways the company's plays are closer in spirit to Warhol or Almodóvar than to other local theater companies. Watch a few, and you'll see the same actors typecast over and over again. Thygeson always plays a douche bag. Giere specializes in funny androgynous characters. Jai Sahai, who last appeared as a gay lingerie store clerk in *Large Animal Games*, goes into full stoner mode for this production. Cindy Im is put to best use when she gets to flaunt her karaoke chops, and she gets two musical numbers here as the jester-for-hire Feste, the second of which rivals any performance you'd see at Shattuck Down Low.

As a result, we get the whole spectrum of Hollywood personae: the vapid hunk, the glamour girl, the beleaguered PA, the perennially bored fashionista, the ethnic "type" (Dennis Yen, who is burdened with playing three different minor characters), the stoners, the surfers, and the stoners. Each of these characters wallows in his own dissolute lifestyle. Most of them have fifteen-second attention spans. Some flip through magazines or send text messages while other characters recite their lines. The aristocrats get into tabloid scrapes, vying for any new object of desire that enters their field of vision. Like true movie stars, they speak in perfectly polished iambic pentameter, albeit with a slight SoCal drawl. The lower-class characters — a motley crew of makeup artists, key grips, aspiring singers, hookers, and drug users — slur most of their lines. Olivia's aunt Toby Belch (Valerie Weak) can't help it, since she's constantly in her cups. Sahai does it for comic effect. Mike Delaney contrives a fake working-class Boston accent, which makes him sound like a refugee from a different movie set.

Of course, the real centerpiece of *Twelfth Night* is Malvolio, the lowly servant who masquerades as a member of the upper-class. Many productions portray Malvolio as a malcontent or fop, who seems vain and narcissistic but is actually uncomfortable in his own skin. Impact actor Jordan Winer milks that idea for comic effect. His Malvolio is a consummate reality TV star who tries to garner fame by parading around the studio in yellow knee-high socks. He's a hot mess. He's also a perfect filter for Shakespeare's message about the impermanence of social categories — that "some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." That's true in Tinseltown, too. Just ask Melissa Hillman. ■

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FRIDAY NIGHTS @ BAM/PFA

LECTURES & LIT

Where's the Beef?

Carnivores can't be environmentalists, says ex-cattle rancher Howard Lyman

He wasn't just a cattle rancher. He was a diehard fourth-generation Montana cattle rancher with a thousand animals on the range and thousands more in feedlots. On more than 10,000 acres of cropland, he grew grass to feed his livestock, which also included pigs, chickens, and turkeys.

Thirty years later and 130 pounds lighter, **Howard Lyman** is a changed man. First and foremost, he's a staunch vegetarian. "I would love to see feedlots close and factory farming end," Lyman wrote in his book *The Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth From the Cattle Rancher That Won't Eat Meat*. "I would love to see more families return to the land, grow crops for our own species, and raise them organically. I would love to see farm communities revive. I would love to know that I've wandered into my nation's heartland by the sweet smell of grain and not the forbidding smell of excrement."

Howard Lyman

That's his story — and he's sticking to it during a debate in the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater at the **David Brower Center** (2150 Allston Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, May 20, with Marin rancher **Nicolette Hahn Niman**, author of *The Righteous Porkchop*. Presented by **VegNews Magazine** and the **Earth Island Institute**, the debate will be moderated by Gather Resto trant cofounder **Ari Derfel**.

Lyman and Niman will debate whether it's possible to be a good environmentalist and still eat animals. Lyman's answer is no, unless "you have wealth like Bill Gates and are willing to spend what it would cost to eat environmental meat," said Lyman, who sold his ranch in 1983 and began lobbying in Washington, DC for financially troubled farmers. "The rest of us are kidding ourselves when we eat meat and consider ourselves environmentalists.

"About 98 percent of Americans do not eat meat and at the same time over 70 percent consider themselves environmentalists," said Lyman, who helms the environmental nonprofit **Voice for a Viable Future**. "When you see that the number-one cause of global greenhouse gas comes from livestock, it is clear that these positions are in direct opposition with each other."

While recovering from surgery to remove a debilitating spinal tumor in 1979, the then-rancher and ex-college football player — who weighed well over 300 pounds — began thinking seriously about the impacts of food and lifestyle on human health. "Animal protein is directly related to the amplification in heart disease, cancer, and obesity," Lyman said. "With half of Americans dying from heart disease and one-third being diagnosed with cancer ... and 70 percent of Americans overweight or obese, from the health standpoint eating meat is the kiss of death." His concerns about human health are magnified four billionfold when it comes to the health of the Earth. "The destruction of our public lands and waters is directly tied to animal production and that issue is not even in dispute," the former rancher avowed. "This is the land that we all have ownership in, and we are destroying it with our forks." 7 p.m. $10-$20 suggested donation. EarthIsland.org

— Anneli Rufus

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LECTURES

In the Wake [illegible] Talk Theater aficionado discusses Lisa Kron's new play at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Wed., May 19, 7 p.m., free. Orinda Library Auditorium, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2184.

Letter to the Romans Lecture with author Earl Palmer. Fri., May 21, 7 p.m., $25-$40. First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley. 510-848-6242, FPCBerkeley.org.

Revolutionary Dreams Earth First! and [illegible] Coalition recognize the 20th anniversary of the bomb attack on Earth First! [illegible] Event features music, film, and discussion. Sun., May 23, 7 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Albany Library Evening Book Group [illegible] facilitates the group, which [illegible] "The American [illegible]" Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Albany Library Great Books Discussion Group Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

A.B. [illegible] [illegible] May 22, 2 p.m., free. Castro Valley Library, 20055 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. [illegible]

Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group [illegible] Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., no cover. Hayward Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, library.hayward-ca.gov.

[illegible] Discussing *A Garden Web* [illegible] May 23, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Bay Area Storytelling Festival May 22-23, $7-$14. Kennedy Grove Regional Recreational Area, 1528 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. 510-223-7840, EBParks.org/Parks/Kennedy.

California of the Past Digital storytelling station allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, library.hayward-ca.gov.

[illegible] Discussing *The Quiet Book*. Sat., May 22, 2 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] Book Discussion Group A monthly literary circle for adults. Fourth [illegible] of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Discussing *The Sky Is Everywhere*. Thu., May 20, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, greatgoodplacebooks.com/

[illegible] Discussing *Mark Twain: The Adventures of Samuel L. Clemens*. Tue., May 25, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Kensington Library Book Club Fourth Monday of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

[illegible] Discussing *Life* [illegible] Wed., May 26, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Branch Book Discussion Group Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Wed., May 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Middle East [illegible] Group Call Dave [illegible] at 510-893-2542 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

Music of the Word/La [illegible] With [illegible] Fourth and Second Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Rebecca's Books, 3268 Adeline St., Berkeley. [illegible] www.rebeccasbooks.biz/

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PICKS

Jandy Nelson.

Jandy Nelson

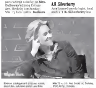
When her big sister Bailey dies unexpectedly, seventeen-year-old band geek Lennie Walker finds herself comforting Bailey's grief-stricken boyfriend and sharing musical moments with a new guy in town. Life after Bailey's death is an emotional maelstrom in **Jandy Nelson**'s novel *The Sky Is Everywhere*. Meet Nelson at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle St., Oakland) on Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m., free. GreatGood*Place.Indiebound.com*. *—Anneli Rufus*

Barbara Quick

Teens today are told they can do anything. Their 14th-century counterparts weren't so lucky. At **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, May 23, local author **Barbara Quick** discusses *A Golden Web*, her new historical novel based on the life of Alessandra Giliani, the world's first female anatomist, who risked everything to avoid an unwanted marriage and the cloister. 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *—A.R.*

A.R. Silverberry

As a licensed psychologist, local author **A.R. Silverberry** has studied the complexities of human emotion. He drew upon this knowledge to write his debut novel *Wyndano's Cloak*, a fantasy in which a young heroine battles a shadowy figure who uses dark arts and weird creatures to wreak havoc. Meet Silverberry at the **Castro Valley Library** (20055 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley) on Sunday, May 23, 2 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org. *—A.R.*


Meghan Daum.

Meghan Daum

At the height of the real-estate bubble, longtime *Los Angeles Times* columnist **Meghan Daum** invested everything she had in a 900-square-foot bungalow with a disheveled garage. At **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, May 26, she discusses *Life Would Be Perfect If I Lived in That House*, a look at what she calls her obsession with home acquisition and its role in the great American dream. 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net *—A.R.*

libraries, catalogue and database access, search tips, pull-down menus and links. Daily. Oakland Public Library, Main branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Online Book Club Sign up for this program and read the latest books via e-mail, or chat about books in discussion forums. To participate, visit OaklandLibrary.org. Daily.

OPL Golden Gate Book Discussion Group Come share your enjoyment of reading with others in the community. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Flash presents [illegible] Coleman & Barbara [illegible] Thu., May 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Poetry reading by Jonathan Lasky and Joe Wenderoth Mon., May 24, 5 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Poetry Reading by Elizabeth Biller Chapman and Lynne Knight Thu., May 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Poetry Reading with Geoff Bouvier Thu., May 20, 7 p.m., free. Mercury 20 Gallery, 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7700. MercuryTwenty.com.

[illegible] Jones, [illegible] & Sojourn [illegible] Wed., May 26, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Readers Anonymous Club Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-7512. CCCLib.org.

Sam Barry and Kathi Goldmark Discussing *Write That Book Already!: The Tough Love You Need to Get Published Now*. Sun., May 23, 4 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Sarah Marx Feldner Discussing her recipe collection *Cook's Journey to Japan*. Mon., May 24, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Uptown Books We Love Club members take turns discussing a book that inspired them. Led by Cyndi Clynter. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

[illegible] with Anais Gabriel Thu., May 20, 4 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Downtown Oakland Association and Lake Merritt/Uptown Association to Host First Annual Breakfast Meeting With community benefit district announcements. Wed., May 19, 8-9:30 a.m. Kaiser Center Roof Garden, 300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. KaiserCenterRoofGarden.com.

SPOKEN WORD

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. Debbie Moser and Paradise Freightlove and Kira Allen host alternating Wednesdays. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Hello Rock A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 p.m., donations requested. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Oakland Slam A spoken-word competition hosted by Nazelah Jamison and [illegible] and AJ Agana. Third Thursday of every month, 8 p.m., $5-$8. Oakland Metro Opera House, 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

Storytelling Swap Storytelling 'swap' night hosted by Cathy Shaw. Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., donations through Dec. 31, free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Tell It on Tuesday A new monthly series celebrating the art of storytelling, with a featured musical guest each month. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., $8-$12. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Thursday at Word Beat A weekly spoken word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. [illegible]. Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Word Art Visual and Oral History Night All [illegible] except for guest speakers will be [illegible] 3-8 minutes to tell their story [illegible] present their opinions. Singing begins at 6:15. First and Third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m., donations [illegible]. Cafe [illegible]. 13700 Doolittle Dr., San Leandro, 510-581-9584.

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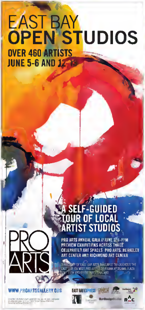
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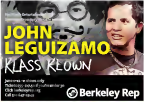
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BODY&SOUL

Root Cause

Weeds cure diseases, says herbalist Tellur Fenner

Tellur Fenner

Confronting fuzzy dandelions and spiky thistles, you see weeds. **Tellur Fenner** sees medicine. And meals. As a clinical herbalist and owner/director of the **Blue Wind Botanical Medicine Clinic** (823 32nd St., Apt. B, Oakland), Fenner is an expert on how to use plants that most people either ignore or tear out and discard — before or after applying weedkiller.

His **"Edible and Medicinal 'Weeds' of the Bay Area"** class on Saturday, May 23, begins at the clinic and includes a tour of a West Oakland urban garden, with live-plant tastings and a slideshow spotlighting the East Bay's most beneficial yet least appreciated wild plants.

Among others, these include chickweed, chicory, salsify — and milk thistle, an invasive European import whose purple blossoms loom thigh-high these days at Tilden Park and other open areas. Herbalists treasure its seeds as a liver stimulant; its extract is used in hospitals to fight hepatitis. It's also a key ingredient in Rockstar. Remove milk thistle's prickles "and you have a lot of food there with all those large, succulent, tasty leaves," advised Fenner, a certified Wilderness First Responder who teaches classes at many regional parks and botanical gardens.

He became interested in herbalism as a teenager in the early Nineties. "Back then, the FDA was doing lots of raids on health food stores, full-on raids with SWAT teams and machine guns, the whole deal," he said. "A lot of people had guns put to their heads and went to jail just because they were selling vitamin-C powder."

The upshot of that havoc was 1994's Dietary Supplement and Health Education Act, by which medicinal herbs are now FDA-classified as food, not drugs. "That paved the way for the Whole Foods generation that you see now," said Fenner. "People could start selling these things without having to worry about being thrown into jail."

An avid camper who already had accumulated a wealth of botanical wisdom, Fenner attended the **American School of Herbalism** and other schools to learn more. Weeds fascinate him precisely because they grow in urban areas and are so dispensable. Many aren't native to this area, "but they're naturalized. They're not going anywhere, but we can harvest them so that they don't spread. That's a sustainable vision. You can cut this stuff down and turn it into medicine."

The much-maligned eucalyptus, for instance, has antispasmodic, antimicrobial, and antifungal properties. "It's also a pretty good expectorant," he said. "You can go to Whole Foods and buy a little vial of eucalyptus oil for $20 — or you can make it yourself."

The average American's ignorance about useful plants "is an instituted amnesia" in a nation that relies almost entirely on Big Pharma, Fenner said. Throughout Europe and Asia, herbal medicines are commonly integrated into treatments for cancer and other diseases. "We don't spend our money on that kind of research here. America spends its money on bombs," Fenner said. "We've been a laughingstock when it comes to health care systems, but that's changing. Let's pick these plants and use them. Let's learn about these plants instead of vilifying them." 10 a.m., $30. BlueWindBMC.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/pj/weeds

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization benefits free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, care management benefits, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1730 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979. APEB.org.

Bay Street Stroller Strides Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training into their daily routine. Info: [illegible], or StrollerStrides.net/baystreet. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class free; $120 for a 10-class pass. The Navy, 5624 Bay St., Emeryville.

[illegible] Syndrome Talk With acupuncturist [illegible] of the Redwood Clinic. Wed., May 19, noon, free. Bridgeport Community Room, [illegible], Emeryville.

[illegible] Healing Night With workshops and [illegible] by professional healers and [illegible]. Refreshments provided. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Fundamentals of Herbal Medicine Seven-session introductory class covers plant identification, harvesting, preparation, anatomy, and social dimensions of medicinal plant usage. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through June 27. $245 general, $200 EC members. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

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Intuitive Eating Workshop May 21-22. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $250 (meals included). My Weigh, 240 Third St., Suite 2, Oakland. MyWeighFamilyTherapy.com.

Holistic Solutions to Allergies Lecture by Dr. [illegible]. Tue., May 25, 7 p.m., free. Orinda Library Auditorium, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2184.

"Sunshine: Good or Bad?" Naturopathic doctor Elizabeth Kozan presents a health talk on sun protection. Tue., May 25, 6 p.m., free. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, 5779 College Ave., Oakland.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Christian Poets Guild Seeking Lunatic Entrants Mail poems of 21 lines or fewer to guild contest [illegible]. Free Poetry Contest, [illegible], CA. [illegible]. [illegible] A $1,000 will be offered to the last poet standing. Through May 21.

Coping and Thriving After a Diagnosis of Cancer Call 510-869-8833 to register. Second and Fourth Monday of every month, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8739.

Look Good ... Feel Better Cosmetologists and wig specialists help women with cancer cope with appearance changes. Fourth Monday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Nourishing the Mind-Body Connection Four-week workshop for cancer survivors. Call 510-869-8833 for information. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:15-2:30 p.m., free. Alta Bates Summit Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8735.

Personal Theology Solutions Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through May 31, free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$15. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Riding the Change with [illegible] Sat., May 22, 1-5 p.m. $40-$50. 7th Heaven Yoga, 3026 7th St., Berkeley. 510-665-4300. 7thHeavenYoga.com.

PICKS

Intuitive Eating Workshop

Get a head start on bikini season by finding peace with food and your natural shape. At **My Weigh** (240 3rd St., Oakland) on Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22, **"The 8 Essential Steps to a Happy Diet-free Body"** is a workshop at which a psychotherapist, a dietitian, and a personal trainer offer tools for intuitive eating. Learn to discern hunger from other emotions masquerading as hunger. Fri. 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $250 (meals included). MyWeighFamilyTherapy.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Letter to the Romans Lecture

Written circa 55 CE, St. Paul's *Letter to the Romans* is now hailed as his greatest work. At the **First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley** (2407 Dana St., Berkeley) on Friday, May 21, **Earl Palmer** — author of *Salvation by Surprise* and pastor in residence at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC — discusses Paul's message of hope for all those who live along history's "turbulent line." 7 p.m., $15-$40. FPCBerkeley.org — *A.R.*

Herbal Medicine Course

San Francisco Botanical Medicine Clinic founder **Joshua Muscat**'s five-week **Fundamentals of Herbal Medicine** course at the **Ecology Center** (2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) runs Sunday, May 23 through Sunday, June 27. Includes basic anatomy, ecology, plant identification, harvesting techniques, medicine making, usage, dosage, legal considerations, and more. Two of the five sessions will take place outdoors. 11 a.m., $160-$175. EcologyCenter.org — *A.R.*

Sunshine Health Talk

Our ancestors worshipped the sun. These days, afraid of the ozone hole, we slather our skins with substances that screen out the sun's effects. In a talk titled **"Sunshine: Good or Bad?"** at **Pharmaca** (5779 College Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, May 25, naturopathic doctor **Elizabeth Kozan** discusses sunscreens, skin cancer, vitamin D, and new research suggesting the benefits of safe sun exposure. 6 p.m., free. Pharmaca.com — *A.R.*

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THE AQUARIUM AGE

JUPITER, SATURN, AND URANUS: PART TWO

For the week of May 19-25, 2010

By Ralfee Finn

Throughout this week and the next several weeks the planets will continue to transform daily life into a training field for conscious living. You could call this phase "consciousness boot camp" and frame the day-to-day events of life as obstacle courses that include long marches, surprise inspections, and occasional encounters with a drill sergeant from hell. Okay, maybe I'm being a little dramatic, but finding metaphors for the current astrological meta-story isn't easy. Too many planetary shifts are occurring simultaneously to isolate any one signature from another. For some of us, the solution to the unrelenting intensity is to get under the covers and stay there until the changes are over. For others, defiance and confrontation may become the coping mechanism of choice. But not everyone is resistant to this rigorous training. Regular routines are falling apart from the pressure, but the dissolution of these structures contains powerful creative seeds — seeds that are ready to sprout and thrive in the soil of awareness.

A three-point recap for those just tuning in: (1) We're still in the midst of a series of Saturn/Uranus oppositions that began in 2008. The fourth in this series occurred on April 26, and the fifth and final exact opposition is on July 26. Saturn/Uranus oppositions signify the dissolution of stagnant structures, and while I know I am repeating myself, some things only stick with repetition, especially for those who find themselves losing solid ground without realizing why. Uranus symbolizes revolution, and as the I Ching reminds us, all authentic revolutions rely on adequate authority stemming from a higher inner truth. Apply that wisdom to whatever may be crumbling in your life, and you may be able to discern if the turmoil has a greater purpose. This is not about deserving or not deserving, it is about an awareness of powerful unseen or unconscious forces that have an effect, and developing skill at identifying or integrating that effect.

Additionally, (2) Jupiter is currently in an opposition to Saturn that will be exact on May 23. This opposition has a tendency to trigger premature or immature emotional reactions to situations that are seemingly out of control. Patience is the perfect antidote to the tension. But patience may not be possible because (3) Jupiter is also closing in on a conjunction with Uranus, which will occur on June 8 in Aries. Given Jupiter's expansive field of influence, it will hold the Saturn/Uranus opposition in place until the final contact on July 26, which means challenges to the status quo will grow increasingly more intense. The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction occurs in Aries, a Cardinal Sign given to swift and impulsive action. Jupiter/Uranus contacts are often termed the "Thank the Lord" configuration, because they symbolize the release of tension. This means that as the entire bundle coalesces — the oppositions, conjunctions, and changing Signs — we can expect sudden, startling, and surprising developments, personal and collective, that are no longer based on a desire for conciliation. Aries has no problem taking a stand.

As the atmosphere shifts from conciliation to agitation, those of us committed to consciousness as a means of evolution will need to be prepared to facilitate transformation wherever possible. While this may sound abstract or idealistic, it is as concrete and practical as helping your neighbor handle a difficult situation. When kindness is the currency of change, revolution becomes evolution.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES Gather all you've learned about leading from the heart — be bold, decisive, and brave — and you will handle the next phase with dazzling skill.

TAURUS Share your ideas with confidence and you'll inspire others to join your cause. Not every plan will work, but the important ones will — and that will be enough.

GEMINI So much has changed and so much more continues to change that it would be wise to let things settle down before you make any big decisions.

CANCER Apply your innate nurturing charm to any situation in need of a soothing touch and you'll help others find positive creative solutions to pressing problems.

LEO As the wheel of your life turns in a new direction, you may find yourself reeling with emotional intensity. Allow this process to unfold, and you'll leave behind patterns you didn't even know were inhibiting your joy.

VIRGO You're in the midst of closing one cycle and opening other, but that's no reason to hurry through this phase. Don't skip the details; they are as important at the end as they are at the beginning.

LIBRA Make patience your constant ally and you'll handle the surprises gracefully. Remember: consciousness is not about control but about staying present and responding rather than reacting.

SCORPIO Instead of worrying that others may find you fussy, do your best. A devotion to detail will allow you to put perfect finishing touches on all your plans and projects.

SAGITTARIUS Be prepared to be surprised by an unexpected surge of creative inspiration that could sweep you into an entirely new attitude about how you want to share your gifts with others.

CAPRICORN Potent rumblings deep within your unconscious have the potential to reveal important information. Pay attention and you'll shift an old pattern that no longer serves.

AQUARIUS Conversation is the key to transformation, especially dialogue and discussion with significant others about what matters most and how to integrate those values into daily life.

PISCES It won't be possible to contain your excitement, so rather than suppress what you're feeling, express it. Just keep in mind that each

To share this story go to: ebx.by/pc/aquarium

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn

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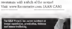

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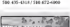

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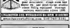

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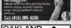

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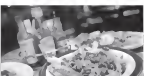

The menu is wide-ranging.

Lina Tuffey

ALL DAY AND INTO THE NIGHT

Serving full meals until 1:30 a.m., Au Coquelet is an ageless cafe.

By Anneli Rufus

Smiling, your server asks whether you'd prefer cheddar, Swiss, or mozzarella on your pizza and whether you'd rather it adorn tomato sauce or pesto. You choose other toppings, too, as if this were a pizzeria, which it's not, as evidenced by the bottles of ketchup and hot sauce that wait at the center of each table. You could just as easily have ordered steak, *huevos rancheros*, curried eggplant, a Louisiana hot-link omelet, salmon-burger, half-pound beefburger, French onion soup, *menudo*, *salade Niçoise*, Berkeley's best house-baked brownies, espresso doppios, a rainbow trout.

Eyeing those condiments on wooden tables varnished to a ship's-galley glutinous gleam, basking in the milky effulgence that pours through giant skylights, noting your server's politeness, you realize what's going on here: *Time has stopped.*

It passes in the sense that food arrives and diners finish it, and songs play start-to-finish through the speakers. Wi-Fi abounds in the breezy coffee-and-pastries front room and the lesser-known full-service dining room. But in essence, at **Au Coquelet** time has stopped. Not pompously, not showily, not as a tourist attraction, but quietly. With ample elbow room, abundant light, an amiable languor, and a head-scratchingly wide array of well-cooked, hefty-portioned, affordable food and drinks, Au Coquelet is the primordial cafe. It's how cafes were meant to be before an ever-speedier society and skyrocketing urban rents rendered them claustrophobic, corporate, costly, soulless, and slick. In most modern cafes, food is an afterthought — scant salads, sandwiches, pastries baked elsewhere — and tables are crammed so tightly as to preclude privacy, much less outflung arms. You can't plan coups d'etat without privacy.

At 5 p.m. on a typical Monday at Au Coquelet, a shaven-headed man whose scooter rests rakishly against his chair covers his entire tabletop with stacks of paper, which he peruses: a teacher, perhaps, grading essays. Three jolly cops tuck into hot meals. A youth wearing an Abu Ghraib torture-silhouette T-shirt presides over a gaggle of laughing geeks. Another man sits fast asleep, face nestled in the textbook lying open on his table, breathing gently through his mouth as happens only when one feels completely safe.

Au Coquelet

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510-845-0433
Reservations accepted
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Hours: Mon.-Thu. 6 a.m.-1:30 a.m., Fri. 6 a.m.-2 a.m., Sat.-Sun. 7 a.m.-2 a.m.

Sample Menu

Quiche	$8.75
Breakfast Burrito	$6.25
Chili-Cheese Fries	$5.95
Zebra Cookie	$1.95

Open from 6 a.m. until 1:30 a.m. on weekdays and even later on weekends, with its kitchen serving cooked food until closing time, Au Coquelet is a stay-all-day home away from home where writers are allowed to write and artists cannot help but dream, where loungers lounge and first dates segue slowly into love. With its two-year-old liquor license, 35-year-old Au Coquelet now offers exotica such as ouzo, Frangelico, Irish coffee, Moscow Mules, and hot buttered rum. They're listed on a cocktail menu adorned with a cartoon bullseye and the words "Delicious Treats Hit the Spot," which proves again: This is the past. Please let me stay.

A legacy of the cafe's French-Basque original owner, two inner walls of the restaurant are crafted to resemble the outer walls of village-style buildings, with faux lace-curtained windows set into them and faux shingled roofs thrusting into the dining room. The skylights, soaring ceiling, sound-sucking wall-to-wall carpet, and enormous DIY Christmas-ball chandeliers complete the effect of dining in some warm foreign courtyard.

But where? And when? Lasagna says it's Italy; quesadillas and Reuben sandwiches say otherwise. The skylights, ceiling fans, crystals suspended mobile-style, and rich, soft-crusted quiche say it's the 1970s. Espresso, BLTs, and a framed picture of a rooster composed of dry beans say it's the Fifties. House-cut finger-width French fries and abstract paintings say it's the Sixties. Mexican music and the Hispanic worker with a cobra tattoo wiping tables say it's 2010. But the brick walls say: ageless. This is the Ur-cafe from time immemorial.

On a big but hotdog-bun-like French roll, the grilled-eggplant sandwich includes mushrooms, pepper, lettuce, tomatoes, and tomato-sauced eggplant cooked satisfyingly satiny-soft. Fluffy scrambled eggs join ham or bacon in brick-size breakfast burritos that, by virtue of also including cheddar, Swiss, or mozzarella, are Mexican but universal. Meatless two-bean chili is thank-you-God comfort food, especially in chili-cheese fries. Puffy, thick-crusted pizzas are nostalgic battle cries. Thin crusts are, truth be told, this millennium's emperor's new clothes. Some of this is food that could fatten one. In a nanny state, it's nice to still have that choice.

The rear room is perfect for meetings, given its convenient location and widely spaced tables. In the front room, facing onto University Avenue, elephantine coffee drinks accompany house-baked pastries such as the unique double-decker "zebra" — brownie and chocolate-chip cookie above, tender macaroon below — and heavy-in-a-good-way pecan torte, one wedge of which amounts to a whole meal. A disjointed sign on one wall reads, "Welcome to this hou se every day is a bless ing." Old men read newspapers. Laptops glow softly. Students highlight books.

The cafes of our ancestors were not for the rich but the poor: the starving artist and rooming-house resident seeking refuge from heat and cold. Au Coquelet's late hours are key. Every drone with a nine-to-five is up early, but who's up and in cafes after midnight? Only the interesting ones, the outliers with weird jobs or no jobs at all. The cafes of our ancestors were incubators.

Having owned Au Coquelet since 1982, **Mehdi Kashef** relishes the details that turn customers into regulars: soups made from scratch, meat delivered daily from Oakland so that it need never be frozen, croissants served still warm mere minutes — never more than sixty here — after emerging from the oven.

"In my heart, my philosophy is this: Make the cafe cozy," mused Kashef, who earned an MBA at Golden Gate University. "Make it family-like. Make it an everyday place that serves the kinds of food people crave — French dip sandwiches, say, and fish and chips." That's not all. "I want to fill people's eyes with value," he said. "This is the real meaning of trust." ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/aucoquelet

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price ranges assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25. $$$—$25-$50. $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 1544 Webster St., Alameda, 510-513-2220. (Italian) $$

Angelfish 853 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda. 510-748-0400. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 2500 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4130. (California Cuisine/Fresh/Turkey/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 3711 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 510-769-9333. (Diner) $

[illegible] 1345 Park St., Alameda, (510) 522-8090. (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 1304 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 510-521-1800. (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 1310 Main St., Alameda. (510) 814-6149. (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1503 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible]. (Cuban) $$

The [illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1081. (Tapas/Small Plates) $

La [illegible] 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9181. (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Table 3215-A [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-814-0319. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

The New Zealander 5400 [illegible] St., [illegible] 510-768-8888. (Contemporary English/Irish/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Waffle Shop 1501 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-5188. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] Restaurant 1718 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-5000. (Mexican) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100. (California Cuisine) $$$

Southeast Grand 2312 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3988. (Thai) $

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1777. (Eclectic/Exotic/Asian Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Al's Big [illegible] 417 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-3723. (Deli) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] 1491 1491 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-0601. (American/Southwest/Cajun/Creole/Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches) $$

Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-8288. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Bui 1647 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 524-7818. (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Bakery & Cafe 841 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-621-1734. (Bakery/American) $$

Cactus Taqueria 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1881. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Cafe [illegible] 1300 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6669. (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Café Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5607. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

The [illegible] 1150 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-3300. (Seafood) $$

[illegible] Village 1305 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2785. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Berkeley [illegible] Cafe 1085 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1155. (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

The [illegible] Shop 509 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-9011. (Mexican) $

Jerusalem [illegible] Kitchen 1081 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-7880. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Restaurant 1415 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-3122. (Tibetan) $$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814. (English/Irish/Bars) $$

[illegible] House 1620 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2515. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838. (Wine) (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Meal Ticket 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-6325. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Nizza La Bella 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552. (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] Meridian 1508 Oak View Ave., Kensington, 510-559-1350. (French/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Rendez-Vous 1111 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-521-4881. (French) $$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 845 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2375. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Saffron Gourmet 1057 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-578-8282. (Deli/Middle Eastern) $

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 1581 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8588. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 977 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-1000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Vanessa's Bistro 1111 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

Full Reviews Online

About 500 reviews searchable by food, region and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Alborz Persian Cuisine 1181 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8971. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

[illegible] 2071 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1848. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2122 Berkeley Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2122. (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai [illegible] Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2119 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-4335. (Pizza) $

Azerbaijan [illegible] 2115 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-0718. (Middle Eastern) $$

Bangkok Thai Noodle 1459 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6483. (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1799. (American/English/Irish/Bars) $$

Beta Lounge 2116 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-845-3280. (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/[illegible]/Mexican/Pizza) $$

[illegible] House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani) $

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

Brazil [illegible] Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011. (Brazilian/Deli/South American) $

[illegible] Cafe 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8853. (Tibetan) $-$$

Caffe Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681. (Italian) $$-$$$

La [illegible] 2154 Center St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1431. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 2120 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

The [illegible] 1419 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Colombian/Exotic) $

E-Z Stop [illegible] 2253 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9544. (Grill) $

eVe 1960 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-0735. (American)

[illegible] 2086 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-809-0400. (Organic/Sustainable/American) $$

Gelateria Naia 2106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1568. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Green Papaya 2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1658. (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Grab N Go 2109 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-540-6797. (Deli) $

Henry's Publick House & Grille 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8200. (California Cuisine) $$

Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. (Brewpub/Pizza/Music Venues/Bars) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072. (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Looney's Smokehouse 2100 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Barbecue) $-$$

The [illegible] [illegible] Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible]. (Chinese) $

[illegible] International Sports Café 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-725-1616. (American/Brewpub) $$

The Mint Leaf 2053 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-7900. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164. (American/Diner) $

Pie in the Sky 1124 Center St., Berkeley, 510-548-6870. (Pizza) $

Platano 2042 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0328. (Central American) $-$$

[illegible] 1923 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2848. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Pomegranate 1505 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-5501. (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0681. (Japanese/Sushi) $

Raw Energy 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464. (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

Razan's [illegible] Kitchen 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0449. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Soup Company 2322 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-2887. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Waffle Cafe 2554 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0118. (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Berkeley Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4863. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6881. (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese)

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

SR24

5179 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-9300. Yet another temple to American comfort food, but better than most. Chef Josh Wendell cranks up the mac 'n' cheese, chicken pot pie and spaghetti and meatballs with fresh, organic ingredients and an elegant yet satisfying postmodern touch. The crisp, creamy green goddess salad; super-savory wild mushroom bread pudding; rich, tender brisket pot roast; and rhubarb pie with strawberry-ribboned whipped cream are especially tasty. Extensive wine list; casual yet attractive red-and-black setting. $$$

Buttercream Bakery & Cafe

849 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-527-8894. Committed to teatime as a rejuvenating daily ritual, Lourdes Guzman opened Buttercream in 2008. Step through its door and dreams come true. Has anyone, anywhere ever really meant the phrase "too cute"? Linen aprons and framed paintings of fruit adorn pastel-yellow walls — buttercream, get it? Hanging everywhere are flea market-fragrant vintage handbags of every shape and size. Beyond a wisteria-fringed massive storefront window, Albany Hill might just pass for Hampstead Heath. High tea comprises a bottomless pot of tea (options include fifteen varieties of green, black, and white) and a two-tiered tray bearing fruit, pastries, and soft, crustless, delectable finger sandwiches (choose from an array of fillings including ham, cucumber, pear-and-Stilton, and watercress). Little crocks of jam and clotted cream complete the picture, along with seemingly adorable silver spoons. $$

Summer Kitchen Bake Shop

2944 College Ave., Berkeley 510-981-1538. A summer spent on Martha's Vineyard inspired the look and feel of this gourmet takeaway, a labor of love for former Chez Panisse pastry chef Charlene Reis and her husband Paul Aberman, who left a gig as executive chef at Hotel Vitale's Americano Restaurant to focus on this quaint purveyor of fancy-restaurant-quality meals meant to be eaten elsewhere. Menus change monthly but always include meat entrees, pasta, pizza, salads, sandwiches, and side dishes. Picnic provisions include fried Fulton Valley chicken and grass-fed Hearst Ranch meatballs. Topping it off is Blue Bottle coffee and unapologetically indulgent desserts such as chocolate-covered tarts and lemon-meringue cupcakes. $$

Rivoli

1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-2542. Chef Wendy Brucker's inventive Cal-Mediterranean cooking continues to delight after sixteen years, even if a few of the kitchen's more complex taste-texture combinations are less focused than they could be. The regularly changing menu highlights seasonal organic and locally raised ingredients in dishes like spring-carrot gnocchi with English peas; grilled salmon with snap-pea risotto; and chicken roulade with asparagus, couscous, and pine nuts. The warm chocolate pecan cake is dreamy. Well-selected wine list, lovely garden setting. $$$

Boot and Shoe Service

3308 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-763-2668. Delectable, inventive, thin-crusted pizzas are the focus of Charlie (Pizzaiolo) Hallowell's latest endeavor. Monterey Bay squid, wild nettles, Calabrian peppers and egg, potatoes, and pancetta are among the organic ingredients used to top off the tender, chewy house crust. Kick things off with a feathery vegetarian *fritto misto* and don't miss the Straus vanilla soft serve with sea salt and olive oil for dessert. Intriguing wine and cocktail list; fun brick-and-timber industrial-chic setting. $$$

Maoz

2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-356-4090. Here you'll find bargain-priced vegetarian (and mostly vegan) fast food that's really low in oil and sugar and that you basically assemble yourself based on your own preferences. Founded by an Israeli husband and wife in Amsterdam in 1991, Maoz is a fast-growing fast-food chain with more than 100 branches on four continents. The format, menu and recipes in each Maoz restaurant are almost exactly the same. When you order a Salad Box, you are given a receptacle containing a handful of lettuce and five tasty, super-fresh falafel balls. Onto this you pile, salad-bar-style, nearly a dozen different house-made toppings, from flash-fried cauliflower to grilled-red-pepper salsa to rich, intense tahini. Order a falafel sandwich — featuring your choice of chewy white or whole-wheat pita — and you can come back to pile on the toppings as many times as you like. $

$-$$

Top Dog 2160 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-848-0178 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Tropical Paradise 2021 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-4380 (African) $$

Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-8380 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

[illegible] 580 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-3551 (California Cuisine/Greek/Italy/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Café Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-558-1171 (Bakery/Mexican) $

Celia's Mexican Restaurant 1841 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-1480 (Mexican) $-$$

César 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1253 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1180 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Flea Street at Shattuck Gardens Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Pizzeria 1586 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2233 (Homemade/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8510 (American)

[illegible] 1785 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-7100 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-527-5301 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

[illegible] 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-4818 (Mexican) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches, Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe [illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-548-4366 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Café Valparaiso [illegible] Ave. [illegible] 510-841-3600 (South American) $$

[illegible] 1415 College Ave., Berkeley 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2148 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-548-[illegible] (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-883-9168 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Homemade Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 2100 Ward St., Berkeley 510-549-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley 510-848-2505 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Maoz 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-356-4090 (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1274 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] Bar & Cafe [illegible] Berkeley 510-549-8885 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

[illegible] 2914 College Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1111 (Chinese) $-$$

Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $

Summer Kitchen Bake Shop 2944 College Ave., Berkeley 510-981-1538 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$

A Taste of Africa 3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-4664 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

The [illegible] 3250 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$

Anchalee [illegible] Dwight Way Berkeley 510-848-4015 (Thai/Burmese) $$

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

The Bread Workshop 1300 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-9440 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Cafe Cacao [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6000 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-524-5447 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe M [illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley 510-528-4420 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0431 (Mexican) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-547-0562 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley (510) 548-8261 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 2057 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-704-4880 (Caribbean) $

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-525-1465 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $

[illegible] 804 University Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1200 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1106 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Halal) $

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-549-1140 (Barbecue) $-$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1652 (Pizza/All Cuisines) $

[illegible] 2200 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510-[illegible] (Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] [illegible] 40th St., Emeryville 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

O Chame [illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley 510-841-8783 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley 510-525-3121 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley 510-841-3180 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 5621 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-547-9258 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Sea Breeze Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley 510-486-8802 (Deli/Seafood) $

Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

Sketch 1809A Fourth St., Berkeley 510-665-5650 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $$$

Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-5160 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

CONCORD MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

El Aguacate 5175 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican/American/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] [illegible] Clayton Rd., Concord 925-[illegible] (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

[illegible] Kabob 2003 Monument Blvd., Concord 925-689-5400 (Afghan/Persian) $

[illegible] Company and [illegible] 2050 Salvio St., Suite 1, Concord 925-[illegible] (American/Brewpub) $-$$

El [illegible] 2233 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-8454 (Greek/Turkish) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 [illegible] Ave, Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2303 (Meat/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Industrial Way, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lil' Hawaiian Barbecue 300 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill (925) 681-3151 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 2361 Willow Pass Rd., [illegible], 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

Luna Ristorante 2118 Willow Pass Rd., [illegible], Concord, 925-691-4061 (Italian) $$-$$$

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Diablo y Diablo Mexicano 2138 Mount Diablo St., Concord, 925-691-8200. (Mexican/Organic/Vegetarian) $$

Nibblers Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0400. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Los [illegible] Poblano 1799 [illegible] St., Concord, 925-685-1021 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Los Gallos 2095 Monument Blvd., Suite 9, Concord, 925-687-7138, (Mexican) $

Toscana Ristorante 2050 Salvio St., Ste. 1, Concord, 925-524-5500 (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

El Pueblito 3445 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-772-0807 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] Hot Pot City 3285 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-8851 (Chinese) $-$$

DAIMO Chinese Restaurant 3288A Pierce St., Richmond, 510-528-3888, (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

The Dead Fish 20050 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3323 (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] City Cafe 100 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-984-0148 (American/California Cuisine) $$

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4822 (Deli/German/Austrian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $

Oxford 3203 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-5011 (Central/Southern) $

Katana-Ya Ramen 10644-10646 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3678 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Fusion Delight 3600 Bay Road Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2338 (Eastern Deli) $

Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9096, (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Little Angie's 1135 [illegible] Ave., El Sobrante, 510-232-8970 (Steak House) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant Delights 1572 Sycamore Ave., Suite F, Hercules, 510-245-1100 (Filipino) $

[illegible] Thai 12380 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-215-1223, (Vietnamese) $-$$

Plaza Garibaldi 250 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-5952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

Pueblo Tamales delivery only El Cerrito, 510-206-0981 (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] 598 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5620 (Italian) $$

[illegible] Thai 3268 Pierce St., [illegible] Richmond, 510-558-9128 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Thai Restaurant 12200 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-5642 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] 1581 Sycamore Ave., Unit B, Hercules, 510-243-1906 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

El Sapote [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-0999 [illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria La Bamba 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2293 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

El Tecolote 14071 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-235-7303 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Wee Thai 614 Willow Ave., Rodeo, 510-799-8893 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Yuet Lee Seafood Restaurant 10330 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-6847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe [illegible] 46801 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

Shreeji Cafe 3964 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-795-3488 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 33330 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-0351 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] Bistro 43781 [illegible] Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1110 (Belgian/Barbecue [illegible]) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1008 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Little [illegible] 31733 [illegible] Rd., Union City, 510-487-1668 (Chinese) $

Little Sichuan Express 34420-G Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-608-0588, (Chinese) $

Lovely [illegible] and Kababs 40711 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-651-1412 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Massimo's 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 6431 [illegible], Union City, 510-615-9485 (Chinese) $

[illegible] Hot Pot Restaurant 6666 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-792-3888 (Chinese) $$

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-8008 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 5688 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8890 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A Street Cafe 213 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558 (French) $$$

[illegible] Italian Restaurant [illegible] Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-7315 (Italian) $-$$

Little Appetite 111 A St., Hayward, 510-341-0570 (Italian) $$

Evolution 4209 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 20684 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-4080 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, 510-581-3222 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-1133 (Chinese) $$

Han Yang Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22305 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-7767 (Barbecue/Korean) $$

The Hayward [illegible] 22877 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-3122 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20618 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-538-8888 (Chinese) $

JR's Restaurant and Pizza 3617 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-886-0082 (Diner) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 21303 [illegible] Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 904 B St., Hayward, 510-538-0981 (Mexican) $$

La [illegible] 2009 Pacific St., San Leandro, 510-352-8301 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 26500 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-670-0727 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

The [illegible] 923 B St., Hayward, 510-538-8811 (American/Diner) $

Restaurant 421 B St., Hayward, 510-580-9044 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant 1282 Davis St., San Leandro, 510-968-4791 (Korean) $$-$$$

[illegible] Burger 14404 Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, 510-278-6339 (American/Diner) $

Sweet Fingers Barbecue Restaurant 450 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

Thai [illegible] 1370 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-318-2345 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] Sushi 1829 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Val's Burgers 21 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-889-8891 (American/Diner) $

Vo's Restaurant 2[illegible] Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-351-5050 (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 22330 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-888-9222 (Chinese/Korean) $

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

La [illegible] 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant 4 Orinda Way, Orinda, 925-253-8852 (Chinese) $

Lily's Bistro 3555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3524 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

Piazza Antica 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $-$$$

Postino 3565 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-8700 ([illegible] Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] House Cafe 376 School St., Moraga, 925-376-5127 (American) $-$$

[illegible] 365 Park St., Moraga, 925-377-7662 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3535 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-3338 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

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OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

B 499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815, (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

Binh Minh Quan 338 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-8136 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$

Bocanova 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7685 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Caffe [illegible] 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of [illegible] Building, Oakland, 510-451-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef [illegible] Bar-B-Que [illegible] San Pablo Ave., [illegible] 510-834-8541 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Chef Lau's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$

[illegible] 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2487 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

[illegible] Cafe 105 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (Barbecue/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/[illegible]/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

D&A Cafe 333 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-0273 (Chinese) $

Encuentro 202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-9463 (Wine Bar/Tapas/Small Plates/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$

Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1314 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-8383 (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 1765 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2835 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

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R&C

Huynh 381 15th St., Oakland, 510-835-5738 (Vietnamese) $$

Ichiro 412 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-1934 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

[illegible] Oakland 1805 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-836-4005 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Kwan 1715 Clay St., Oakland 510-208-5788 (Caribbean/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Lake Chalet 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253 (California Cuisine/Brewery/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Seafood) $$$

Lane Tone 2632 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-832-1010 (African) $$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $-$$

Lorenzo East 821 Washington St. Oakland 510-835-5585 (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway Oakland 510-451-4677 (Belgian/California Cuisine/French, Bars) $$

Jonas Restaurant & Wine Bar 247 Fourth St. Oakland, 510-834-0060 (California Cuisine) $$$

Mua 2442 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-1100 (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Oakland 1150 3rd St. Oakland, 510-835-1350 (Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 300 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland 510-836-2500 (Seafood) $$$

Picán 2295 Broadway, Oakland 510-834-1000 (Southern/Soul Food/Steakhouse/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine) $$$

Rang Dong 724 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-835-8318 (International) $

Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland 510-286-8866 (Chinese) $$$

San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Shan Dong 328 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-2299 (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane 2300 Broadway, Oakland 510-832-4318 (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Jonas 330 Broadway Oakland, 510-251-8100 (California Cuisine) $$$

Soul [illegible] 301 Broadway Oakland, 510-992-1859 (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland 510-268-0[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

Spices II 369 12th St., Oakland, 510-625-8888 (Chinese) $$

Sun Hong Kong Bistro 389 8th St. Oakland 510-839-1888 (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 344 12th St. Oakland, 510-836-6388 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

top dog 455 18th St., Suite B, Oakland, 510-625-1900 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200

Ethiopian) $-$$

Vi's Restaurant 59 Jones Ave., Oakland, 510-835-4000 (Vietnamese) $$

Tong Kee Restaurant 388 Oakland St., Oakland, 510-839-2110 (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Ba Le 1509 International Blvd. Oakland, 510-261-9800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Cafe Hoang Restaurant 717 International Blvd. Oakland 510-444-2506 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Cancún's Restaurant 2731 Bancroft Blvd. Oakland 510-534-4795 (Mexican) $

Oakland Cuisine 2100 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8819 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Las Gueras 5441 Foothill Ave., Oakland 510-536-3070 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

La Jimena Mariscos 2825 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-9500 (Mexican) $

© Restaurant 4060 International Blvd., Oakland 510-261-6800 (Mexican) $-$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland, 510-533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

Full House Cafe 3719 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-530-2380 (American/Diner) $

© [illegible] 3847 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-2396 (Mexican) $

Hong Que Cafe 1209 7th Ave. Oakland, 510-835-8483 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St. Oakland 510-465-7188 (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

[illegible] The Corner 2238 Livingston St., Oakland, 510-488-4830 (Breakfast/Brunch) $

© Ojo de Agua 3202 E. 12th St., Oakland (Mexican) $

[illegible] Ping Village 8217 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland 510-430-8771 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Phnom Penh House 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-482-8898 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Ao Sen 208 International Blvd., Oakland 510-839-6821 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Hoa Hung 2231 International Blvd., Oakland 510-434-9553 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Bac Lao 120 International Blvd. Oakland 510-451-0805 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland 510-446-3851 (Central American) $

Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $

Taqueria Guadalajara 3168 Foothill Blvd. Oakland, 510-261-4280 (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 3820 Foothill Blvd. Oakland, 510-536-6468 (Barbecue/Seafood) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland 510-533-5368 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd. Oakland, 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

Tacos Zamorano 4345 International Blvd. Oakland 510-261-8125 (Mexican) $

The Tout's 800 28th Ave. Oakland 510-532-9000 (Mexican) $$

La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-53[illegible]-7205 (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4311 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-[illegible] (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$$

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-444-8505 (Bars/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Steak House) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland (415) 412-6180 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd. Oakland 510-336-1180 (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd Oakland, 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Camino 3917 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Latino 4039 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-985-1200 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cafe [illegible] 4025 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-655-1034 (French) $$

Commis, 3859 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-653-3902 (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

[illegible] 3308 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-451-0370 (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Fish 4014 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-653-2717 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Grand Tavern 3601 Grand Ave., Oakland, (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Gregoire 4001B Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] 2009 Bancroft Ct., Oakland 510-339-3721.

(American) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

LoCoco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] Ethiopian Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-601-1122 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

[illegible] 3411 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2540 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 2206 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Oakland 542 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-452-9500 (American) $$-$$$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland, 510-465-7738 (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-653-2444 (Caribbean) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Citron 5484 College Ave. Oakland, 510-653-5484 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$

Flavors of India 5311 College Ave. Berkeley 510-658-3461 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave. Oakland 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible], 5408 College Ave., Oakland 510-595-4400 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

Khana Peena 5316 College Ave. Oakland, 510-658-2200 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Walnut College and Broadway, Berkeley, 888-301-2757 (Parks/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Desserts/Ice Cream) $

Manzanita 4001 Linden St. Oakland, 510-655-8386 (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Marica 5301 College Ave. Oakland, 510-985-8388 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

Oliveto 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4050 (Italian) $$$

Nan Yang 6048 College Ave. Oakland, 510-655-3298 (Southeast Asian) $$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave. Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave. Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave. Oakland 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave. Oakland, 510-428-1823 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5808 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-1187 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave. Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Lounge 5634 College Ave., Oakland 510-654-5438 (California Cuisine/American/Asian Fusion/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cajun/Creole/Hawaiian/Japanese/Sushi/Seafood/South American/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave. Oakland, 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave. Oakland 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-653-3456 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland (415) 412-6180 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-601-9227 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-450-0678 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Burma Superstar 4721 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-652-2900 (Southeast Asian) $$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 2118 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-663-5871 (Korean) $$

Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-450-0522 (Mexican) $$$

Genova Delicatessen and Ravioli 5095 Telegraph Ave. Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] 3[illegible] Shattuck Ave. Oakland 510-654-2958 (Korean) $$

[illegible] 4390 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-594-0603 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

La Calaca Loca 5199 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-601-4725 (Mexican) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3100 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

[illegible] 4920 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-655-5030 (California Cuisine) $$$

Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland 510-595-5344 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Music Venues) $

Ohgane Korean Restaurant 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-594-8300 (Korean) $$-$$$

Phat Matt's BBQ 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-879-7714 (Barbecue/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-652-4888 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-658-9040 (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

Oakland [illegible] 2600 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-834-5707 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 4315 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-594-9099 (Korean) $

[illegible] Southern Cuisine 5300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Oakland 510-547-0343 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-653-8691 (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

[illegible] 4390 Telegraph Ave. Suite B Oakland 510-652-3900 (Chinese/Korean) $

[illegible] 5016 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-663-2288 (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St., Pleasanton 925-417-1224 (Mexican) $$$

Bosco's Bones & Brew 11922 Main St., Sunol, 925-862-0901 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bridges 44 Church St. Danville, 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Cafe Esin 2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite 108, San Ramon, 925-314-0974 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 2130 First St., Livermore 925-449-4454 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 210 Cole Ave. Pleasanton 925-462-0100 (French) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Cafe 620 Main St. Pleasanton, 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West Danville 925-552-0505 (Steak House) $$$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St. Pleasanton 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$$$

[illegible] 105 Town & Country Dr. Suite G, Danville 925-552-8318 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 4875 Hopyard Rd. Suite F2 Pleasanton 925-463-

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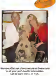

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It's Time to Vote for Best Of the East Bay

Global supply chains and national retail chains are so 1999. In *Home Grown*, our 2010 Best Of the East Bay, we'll focus on the ideas, products, and services that were born or perfected right here in our own backyard. From foods and beverages grown or crafted inside the East Bay to monuments of our region's long and glorious history of innovation in thinking, design, commerce, and manufacturing, the issue will celebrate the people, places, things, and ideas that you simply can't find elsewhere. Artistic movements intrinsic to the Bay Area. Services conceived or perfected in our region. Sports movements or trends that came from our own fields and gymnasiums. *Home Grown* will celebrate what we do better than anyone else.

All Voting Is Online

All votes must be cast online. Go to **EastBayExpress.com/survey** to cast your votes. All ballots must be cast by midnight, Sunday, July 4. Only one ballot per person. Your votes should be your own. Duplicate ballots reflecting slate voting will be discarded, and the intended recipients of your efforts will be disqualified. Valid ballots must have legitimate votes in at least 25 categories. Participants may submit comments about any winner — the best of which will be compiled and published in the issue.

Arts & Culture

Best animator
Best annual event
Best art gallery
Best artist
Best arts organization
Best arty cafe
Best band
Best blogger
Best Burning Man offshoot
Best club
Best dance club
Best DJ (club)
Best DJ (radio)
Best East Bay slang word
Best gallery
Best gallery openings
Best homegrown cultural scene
Best jazz combo
Best local act that made it big
Best local album
Best local author
Best local book
Best local film
Best musician
Best place to [illegible]
Best poet
Best punk or thrash band
Best purveyor of local [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best underground cultural event
Best venue for local bands

Goods & Services

Best art supplies
Best bakery
Best bike shop
Best bodywork services
Best bookstore
Best brewery
Best camera store
Best cannabis dispensary
Best cannabis [illegible] ([illegible])
Best [illegible]
Best car [illegible]
Best car [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
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Best locally made chocolates
Best locally made clothes
Best locally made kids' products
Best locally made musical instruments
Best locally made product
Best manicures and pedicures
Best manufactured hemp products
Best men's clothing
Best motorcycle shop
Best native plant selection
Best new business
Best pet care
Best pet store
Best pharmacy
Best plant nursery
Best pet doctor
Best record store
Best recycled or salvaged goods
Best seed swap
Best selection of hippie gear
Best sex shop
Best shoe store
Best smoke shop
Best specialty record store
Best tattoo parlor
Best tie-dyed products
Best toy store
Best T-shirts
Best urban farm
Best used clothing
Best vegan sweets
Best veterinarian
Best vintage clothing
Best wine store
Best winery
Best women's clothing

Restaurants & Bars

Best African restaurant
Best bar
Best barbecue
Best breakfast/brunch
Best Chez Panisse spinoff
Best Chinese restaurant
Best cocktails
Best coffee
Best coffeehouse
Best deli
Best desserts
Best gay bar
Best gluten-free products
Best gourmet food cart
Best healthy fast food
Best homegrown fusion of cuisines
Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant
Best Italian restaurant
Best Japanese/sushi restaurant
Best Korean restaurant
Best locally sourced menu
Best Mexican or Central American restaurant
Best Middle Eastern restaurant
Best new restaurant
Best non-meat burger
Best pizza
Best salads
Best sandwiches
Best seafood
Best Southern/soul food
Best steaks
Best food truck
Best take-out food
Best teahouse
Best Thai/Lao/Burmese restaurant
Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
Best Vietnamese/Cambodian restaurant
Most communal communal tables

People & Places

Best charity
Best college professor
Best community garden
Best community organizer
Best company to work for
Best grassroots political movement
Best homegrown Internet phenomenon
Best hometown hero
Best K-12 teacher
Best local activist
Best local idea
Best local innovator
Best local religious movement
Best neighborhood
Best new online
Best pickup spot
Best place to get lost
Best place to hang out
Best place to take the kids
Best protest
Best rising political figure
Best spokesperson for a home-grown movement
Best under-21 hangout
Most [illegible] Nobel Prize winner
Best [illegible]

Sports & Outdoors

Best athlete (amateur)
Best athlete (pro)
Best basketball courts
Best bike ride
Best bike fleet
Best bike trail
Best California casino
Best California ski resort
Best cycling store
Best endurance challenge
Best golf [illegible]
Best homegrown sports league
Best martial arts studio
Best mountain [illegible]
Best outdoor store
Best park
Best Pilates [illegible]
Best place [illegible] Happy [illegible]
Best place [illegible] Oakland [illegible]
Best place [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
Best [illegible]
[illegible]
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Lawrence's Walnut Grove Brew Co. 225-5 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-838-0585. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Masala House Danville 408 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-387-4900. (Indian, Pakistani) $$

Stanbrook's Steak & Chop House 7410 San Ramon Rd., Dublin. 925-833-0893. (American Seafood/Steak House) $$$

Maud's Restaurant 17 Toastwith, San Ramon. 925-831-9366. (California Cuisine) $$$

The Patio 590 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-299-0885. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Red Smoke Grill 4500 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-734-0307. (American/Barbecue) $

Red Tractor Cafe 4920 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. 925-[illegible]. (American) $

Stanford's BBQ and Seafood 2300 First St., Livermore. 925-454-0610. (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Waroot 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon. 925-111-1678. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Trattoria 800 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon. 925-968-1889. (Italian) $$-$$$

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. 925-449-7000. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Xenia's Bistro 115 Alamo Plaza, Danville. 925-855-0300. (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

Yutaka 2400 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-964-1818. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka Russian Deli & Restaurant 1415 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-933-6778. (Eastern European) $$

Le Bistro 1600 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-401-8000. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Dragon 2000 1651 Botelho Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-256-1845. (Chinese) $-$$

George's Greek Restaurant 1411 Botelho Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-939-4888. (Diner) $

Modern 1538 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-4000. (Caribbean Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

Saigon 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-932-9898. (Vietnamese) $$

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Lark Creek Market Bistro 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-1234. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Ol-G Stew 1521 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-287-8158. (Chinese) $$

Primo 1511 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Bristol's Restaurante & Pizzeria 3400 Oakland Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-947-5105. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek. 925-943-5666. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

Forrest Dunn Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-944-0181. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Beast people Sessions Mixologist Suzanne Long makes cocktails on the spot using cocktail syrups, liqueurs, and rarer specialty spirits. Wednesdays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 8. Forbidden Boots, 1504 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-749-0332. Forbiddenislandalameda.com.

Market Chocolates Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in blocked tee, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m., free. Yelaine Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6539 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-851-4418. ChaletChocolates.com.

Chop Bar seasonal and Beer Night Happy hour, small plates, and $ free film screening, Mondays, 5-10 p.m. Continues through May 21. free. Chop Bar, 247 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-834-2407. ChopBar5.com.

Cooking Class: Vegetables, Market Two-session vegetarian lifestyle cooking class. Sat., May 1, 10 a.m., $81. Piedmont Adult School, 800 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. 510-594-2665. PiedmontAdultSchool.org.

East Bay Green Drinks Monthly gathering for people interested in sustainability. Topics include green business, Restaurant design, organics, and clean energy. Third Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Filipino Vegetarian Cooking Workshop Aileen Suzara leads this workshop for 15 participants as part of the Yerba Pacific American Heritage Festival. Sat., May 22, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $5-$30. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.org.

Spaghetti Tuesdays Special on dishes of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread and a side salad. Plus a special show-case. Tuesdays. Continues through Dec. 31. $10. Tommy T's Comedy & Steak House, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Sustainable Food Evening Panel discussion with Novella Carpenter, Deborah Koons Garcia, Amy Murray, chef Samin Nosrat, Nancy Vail, and Temra Costa. Thu., May 20, 6:30 p.m. $10-$25. Revival, 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family farmers. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-8000. ShopBayfair.com.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farmers Booth Farm Fresh Choice runs blocked stands in culturally diverse, limited-income neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-1794. EcologyCenter.org. Farmer's Market Community Center, San Pablo Park, Derby & Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-981-5050. Cityofberkeley.info/parks/sanpablo.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/SplashPad.asp.

Hayward Public Library Adult Sale and Farmers' Market Call 510-881-7980 for free. Fourth Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4400. www.ci.hayward.ca.us/about/cityhall.shtm.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With Market selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard outside the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With Market selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3600 Broadway St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the Selenium patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a bakery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier and specialty fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, blended fresh pasta, and seasonal mushrooms. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Oakland/Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connection between Oakland people and our planet. The market includes certified organic produce from J&P Organic Farm (only out of Modesto, CA) and a youth-led prepared food stand called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info please contact Ren at ren@oaklandfoodconnection.org, or call 510-483-1888. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Market.

North Shattuck Oakland Market Special foods, all-organic Oakland and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Farmer's Ave. (at Rose St.), Berkeley.

Old Oakland Jack London Square Farmers' Market Seasonal flowering plants, herbs, freshly baked bread, flowers and cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland. 510-621-1515. JackLondonSquare.com.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m., free. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, seasonal foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5050. CI.Berkeley.CA.US/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal flowering dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, beans, goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers and more. Info: 510-745-9700. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

PICK

Sustainable Food Evening

Locally crafted artisanal treats accompany a **panel discussion** about sustainable food at **Revival** (2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 20. Panelists include urban farmer **Novella Carpenter**, filmmaker **Deborah Koons Garcia**, Revival owner **Amy Murray**, chef **Samin Nosrat**, Pie Ranch founder **Nancy Vail**, and activist **Temra Costa**, author of *Farmer Jane: Women Changing the Way We Eat*. 6:30 p.m. $10-$25. FarmerJane.org. *— Anneli Rufus*

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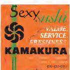
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MOVIES

NORMAN DOG! SAXON PIG!

Marauders and beekeepers in *Robin Hood* and *The City of Your Final Destination*

By Kelly Vance

Russell Crowe as Robin Hood and Cate Blanchett as Maid Marion in *Robin Hood*

Everything you thought you knew about ***Robin Hood*** was wrong. In **Ridley Scott** and **Russell Crowe**'s humorless, by-the-numbers prequel to the durable legend of medieval England, no one swings through the trees of Sherwood Forest. There's no archery tournament. The Merry Men aren't merry; in fact, they're not men but a band of feral children known as the Orphan Boys. Little John (**Kevin Durand**) is a surly lout, and Friar Tuck (**Mark Addy**) keeps bees. Perhaps most distressing of all, Robin Hood has traded in his tights for black leather jeans.

Not only does Crowe's title character come across as more of a broadsword-swinging general than a bow-hunting guerrilla, but his two best-known names, Robin Hood and Robin of Loxley, are revealed to be pseudonyms. Returning crusader Robin Longstride acquires the new title by impersonating the real Loxley after the latter is killed en route to England. He maintains the deception just long enough to get next to Loxley's widow, the headstrong Maid Marion (**Cate Blanchett**), through the good graces of her father-in-law, Sir Walter (**Max Von Sydow**), in troubled Nottingham.

Things get even murkier on the political front. Robin goes undercover in order to deliver the crown of England to Prince John (**Oscar Isaac**), brother of King Richard the Lionheart (**Danny Huston**), who meets his end fighting Frenchmen on his way home from fighting Arabs in the Holy Land circa 1199 CE.

An unscrupulous English usurper named Godfrey (heavy **Mark Strong**) conspires with the opportunistic King Philip of France (**Jonathan Zaccai**) to steal the crown and assume the throne, but Robin thwarts him. This only spurs Godfrey to join forces with Philip's own on a commando raid into England. Much "Norman dog! Saxon pig!" strife ensues, with Crowe going into full *Gladiator* mode against the foul and most foreign French.

No one can blame Scott for tinkering with the story. After surviving the attentions of everyone from Richard Lester to the Monty Pythons to Mel Brooks, Robin Hood was due to be put into more or less realistic terms with the authentic stink of the Middle Ages. But not with Crowe. And not with a screenplay by **Brian Helgeland**, who adapted the story he wrote with **Ethan Reiff** and **Cyrus Voris**.

Crowe is too grim for the job. Robin Hood should be witty and impudent, not a plodding romper-stomper. He looks especially awkward in his halting love scenes with Blanchett, whose stressed-out Marion is otherwise of a piece with the rest of her English historical impersonations.

Ridley Scott is not a brainless filmmaker. For someone so relentlessly commercial, he has made his share of coherently written, thought-provoking adventures. But *Robin Hood* is not one of them. It might be time for him to rethink his relationship with the dependable but rather bloated Crowe, whose skull-bashing and dull introspection make Nottingham a gloomier place than it already was.

Riding high behind Blanchett in Scott's enormous cast: Von Sydow as the blind but belligerent Sir Walter, still engaging in swordplay fifty years after *The Virgin Spring*; **Eileen Atkins** as Eleanor of Aquitaine, the stage-managing Queen Mother; **William Hurt**'s William Marshall, odd man out in the dueling double-crosses behind the Plantagenet throne. Addy's rough and tumble Friar Tuck should have had more screen time.

Ditto Isaac as King John. In **Michael Curtiz** and **William Keighley**'s 1938 *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, the villainous John was played by **Claude Rains** as an effete martinet. Scott and Isaac imagine him as a green, pleasure-loving, casually cruel young playboy with a new French bride who nonetheless races impetuously into battle against invaders when his country calls — sort of a cousin to Joaquin Phoenix's Emperor Commodus in *Gladiator*. As usual, the peasants pay the price for the ambitions of people like King John and King Philip. This Robin Hood's fatal flaw is that he doesn't know which side he's on. Prince or masters? Tell it to the kid with the mask, the one who steals the corn.

Robin Hood

Directed by Ridley Scott. With Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, and Max Von Sydow. Now playing.

The City of Your Final Destination

Directed by James Ivory. With Anthony Hopkins, Laura Linney and Charlotte Gainsbourg. Opens Friday.

As the first **Merchant Ivory** production since producer **Ismail Merchant**'s death in 2005, ***The City of Your Final Destination*** lines up with the likes of *The Bostonians* or *Hullabaloo Over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures* on the less ostentatious, character-driven-comedy-of-manners side of the MI ledger.

In the classical sense of "comedy of manners," the 2009 production isn't punch-line funny, but there's definitely a cosmic giggle in the story of a shy young literature scholar from New York named Omar Razaghi (UC Berkeley alumnus **Omar Metwally**) who travels to the pampas of Uruguay to convince the aggressively eccentric family of a recently deceased author to participate in Omar's biography of the man.

In the best tradition of this kind of film, nothing really happens except that the characters' whole world shifts under their feet. The author's widow, Caroline Gund (**Laura Linney**), is the sort of controlling matriarch more motivated by old-school snobbism than by any protective instinct toward the family. Caroline shares a roof with her late husband's mistress, Arden Langdon (a radiant **Charlotte Gainsbourg**), and her young daughter by the old man. The main activity on the vast estancia of Ochos Rios, besides raising cattle, is arts 'n' crafts, listening to classical music, and heavy drinking.

In another house on the estate live the late Jules Gund's surviving brother Adam (**Anthony Hopkins**) and his longtime partner Pete (**Hiroyuki Sanada**). Like his brother, Adam balances his outsider's status as a German Jewish refugee from Hitler with a sort of "floating world" philosophy. Pete helps out on the ranch but has enterprising aspirations. As it stands on Omar's unannounced arrival on their doorstep, Caroline is against the proposed biography, Adam is for it, and Arden is undecided.

Time takes its course. Omar's unheroic girlfriend Deirdre (**Alexandra Maria Lara**) arrives to expedite the project. Ivory and longtime screenwriting collaborator **Ruth Prawer Jhabvala**, adapting **Peter Cameron**'s novel, forces us to take our time and get to know the characters down to their socks. The result is a wistfully charming film that's true to the Merchant Ivory legacy, but with the type of subtlety demanded by its rootless, sophisticated subjects, who buzz around in circles like the inhabitants of Pete's bee colony, making honey. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/pc/robinhood

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Grimaldi (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

The City of Your Final Destination Omar, an unassuming academic from New York (Omar Metwally), takes a chance and travels to the pampas of Uruguay on a trip unannounced on the family of a recently deceased author in hopes of getting access for a biography. But the author's widow (Laura Linney), his mistress (Charlotte Gainsbourg), and his brother (Anthony Hopkins) [illegible] this beguiling drawing-room-and-grassland drama by director James Ivory and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, the first Merchant-Ivory production since the death of producer Ismail Merchant, doesn't exactly hit us over the head with narrative incident. Instead, it dwells on character and milieu, with Linney, Gainsbourg, and Hopkins leading the way. [illegible] into the "understated [illegible] of manners" [illegible] of director Ivory's filmography alongside *The Bostonians* and *Hullabaloo Over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures*. Based on the novel by Peter Cameron. (117 min.) (K.V.)

MacGruber Will Forte, Ryan Phillippe, and Val Kilmer star in the feature version of a *Saturday Night Live* sketch. Directed by Jorma Taccone. ACT, BC, BP, CWC, CR, CEPH, CH, CUC, EH, [illegible]

Paper Man [illegible] Jeff Daniels [illegible] — à la *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Elf*, *Dalmatians*, etc. — [illegible] imaginary super-hero friend (Ryan Reynolds), in a country house on Long Island's South Shore to [illegible] the writer's block. [illegible] (110 min.) (K.V.)

Sex and the City 2 [illegible] Patrick King [illegible] TV [illegible] Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, and Kim Cattrall. BC, BP, [illegible]

Shrek Forever After [illegible] Shrek [illegible] Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy. ACT, BC, BP, CWC, CR, CEPH, CH, CUC, EH, [illegible] WWS

ONGOING

Babies [illegible] the home videos you've ever had to watch of your friends' [illegible] and you'll have the gist of this [illegible] documentary. [illegible] chronicles the first two years in the lives of four infants, from San Francisco, Tokyo, the Mongolian steppes, and a Namibian village. [illegible] the young [illegible] American and Japanese babies enjoy [illegible] while the African child plays [illegible]

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Albany; **ACT** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = [illegible] Cinema; **BB** = Blackhawk; **BP** = [illegible] Pittsburg; **BS** = Bay Street; **CA** = California; **CAPH** = CineArts Pleasant Hill; **CC** = Century [illegible]; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinema; **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHA** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = Crow Canyon; **CSC** = Chabot Square and Sequoia; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = Deer Valley; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Jack London; **LP** = La Peña; **MC** = [illegible]; **OA** = [illegible]; **OR** = Orinda; **PD** = Piedmont; **RA** = Regal Antioch; **RCC** = Rialto Cinemas Cerrito; **RCE** = Rialto Cinemas Elmwood; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = Rheem Theatre; **S** = Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAES** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano [illegible] and lies. As in many nature films, the [illegible] subjects are [illegible] (78 min.) (A.G.,UC, CNC, CEPH, [illegible] RH, UA08) V

[illegible] Plan A romantic comedy [illegible] Jennifer Lopez [illegible] Alex O'Loughlin [illegible] Kate [illegible] Alan Poul [illegible] (105 min.) [illegible]

Casino Jack and the United States of Money Alex [illegible] Enron [illegible] Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson [illegible] (122 min.) (K.V.J).

City Island "Family" doesn't always [illegible] Andy Garcia [illegible] Julianna Margulies [illegible] Emily Mortimer [illegible] Alan Arkin [illegible] Raymond De Felitta [illegible] (100 min.)

Clash of the Titans [illegible] 1981 Ray Harryhausen [illegible] Sam Worthington [illegible] Liam Neeson [illegible] Ralph Fiennes [illegible] Louis Leterrier [illegible]

[illegible] Hulk) [illegible] Natalie [illegible] (117 min.) (K.V.,RB) RH

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature career performance [illegible] Maggie Gyllenhaal [illegible] Scott Cooper [illegible] Colin Farrell [illegible] Stephen Bruton and Ryan Bingham [illegible] (111 min.)

Date Night Tina Fey and Steve Carell star as a bland [illegible] Mark Wahlberg [illegible] James Franco and Mila Kunis [illegible] Shawn Levy [illegible] Night at the Museum [illegible] (UA,BTC, CNC, CEPH, GUC, GA, CRC, RA, RH, UA08)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Death at a Funeral The movie [illegible] Frank Oz [illegible] Funeral [illegible] Peter Dinklage [illegible] (C,H,ES, SC, CN, GA, RH, J)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid [illegible] Jeff Kinney [illegible] Thor Freudenthal [illegible] (82 min.) (J.J.,RB)

Exit Through the Gift Shop [illegible] Banksy [illegible] Los Angeles [illegible] Thierry Guetta [illegible] (87 min.) (K.V.,J)

[illegible] in the comedy [illegible] (CNC, CB, GI, CUC, CNC, RA, RH, JL, UA08)

The Ghost Writer Roman Polanski [illegible] Ewan McGregor [illegible] Kim Cattrall [illegible] (128 min.) (K.V, UCC, UA08)

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo A Stockholm magazine journalist with a [illegible] Michael Nyqvist [illegible] Noomi Rapace [illegible] Lisbeth (Rapace), [illegible] Niels Arden Oplev [illegible] Stieg Larsson [illegible] 2009's number-one box-office hit in Europe [illegible] "Men Who Hate Women." (152 min., 2009, not rated) (K.V.,PM, S)

Greenberg Ben Stiller [illegible] Roger Greenberg [illegible] Noah Baumbach [illegible] The Squid and the Whale [illegible] Margot at the Wedding [illegible] Rhys Ifans [illegible] Jennifer Jason Leigh [illegible] (107 min.) (K.V.,BA)

Harry Brown Michael Caine [illegible]

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"A PERFECT-IN-EVERY-WAY MOVIE!" Stuart Lee, WNYE TV

Raymond De Felitta

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MOT

is he the overrated scoundrel? Because of Caine's performance as Harry, and [illegible] of director Daniel Barber's artful storytelling. In Barber's hands, the [illegible] screenplay by Gary Young comes alive [illegible] with the exquisite [illegible] Also with Emily Mortimer, Charlie Creed-Miles, and Liam Cunningham. (103 min.) [illegible]

How to Train Your Dragon This wily but satisfying CGI spectacular from DreamWorks manages to steer [illegible] whereas the [illegible] was merely formulaic [illegible] adapted the [illegible] of the book, a skinny teenage [illegible] in a village of burly Vikings who maintain a [illegible] battle against raiding dragons. The boy discovers he has an affinity with the [illegible] to win the [illegible] understanding of his [illegible] (an unaccountably entertaining Gerard Butler). Codirectors Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders [illegible] the joy of flight than James Cameron ever will (98 min.). [illegible]

Iron Man 2 Actor Robert Downey Jr. and director Jon Favreau really find their groove in the sequel to Marvel Comics' superhero [illegible] Scientist/inventor/billionaire Tony Stark (Downey) finds his [illegible] Among the layers of [illegible] (embodied by Sam Rockwell) the military-industrial [illegible] Don Cheadle [illegible] Garry Shandling [illegible] Mickey Rourke, with a high-voltage [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow [illegible] Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson [illegible] Screenwriter Justin Theroux [illegible] And Downey is at the top of his game. [illegible] (124 min.) [illegible]

Just Wright Queen Latifah's [illegible] *Beauty Shop* and *Last Holiday* [illegible] Common [illegible] Paula Patton [illegible] a gold digger [illegible] NBA [illegible] Latifah [illegible] (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*) [illegible] the NBA [illegible] (111 min.) [illegible]

Kick-Ass A teenage [illegible] (Aaron Johnson) [illegible] superhero who doesn't know how to fight. To his [illegible] Nicolas Cage [illegible] daughter [illegible] Director Matthew Vaughn, who adapted Mark Millar's [illegible] with writer Jane Goldman [illegible] Christopher Mintz-Plasse [illegible] (Mark Strong) [illegible] (117 min.) [illegible]

La Mission Peter Bratt wrote the screenplay and directed his [illegible] Benjamin [illegible] Benjamin Bratt [illegible] San Francisco's [illegible] the movie. With Erika Alexander and [illegible] (117 min.) [illegible]

The Last Song Greg Kinnear [illegible] in this Miley Cyrus vehicle. Directed by Julie Anne Robinson. [illegible]

Letters to Juliet Vanessa Redgrave [illegible] Gary Winick [illegible] Amanda Seyfried [illegible] (Christopher Egan) [illegible] Gael García Bernal [illegible] (105 min.) [illegible]

The Losers Live-action comic-book [illegible] (Jason Patric) [illegible] jungle in the part of Los Angeles, [illegible] Andy Diggle's DC Comics [illegible] Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Chris Evans, [illegible] Idris Elba [illegible] as the requisite female [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

Mid-August Lunch (Pranzo di Ferragosto) [illegible] landlord's aging mother in exchange for back rent. [illegible] (75 min.) [illegible]

Mother and Child Soap [illegible] director Rodrigo García [illegible] Annette Bening and Naomi Watts [illegible] Kerry Washington, and Elizabeth Peña [illegible] has a strong performance, but the flavor is all wrong. [illegible] Written and directed by García, who's the son of [illegible] Gabriel García Márquez (125 min.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a [illegible] of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history [illegible] mysteries [illegible] Egyptian [illegible] CSC

A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010) [illegible] Freddy. How can we miss you if you won't stay away? [illegible] Wes Craven's child molester/serial killer Freddy Krueger (Jackie Earle Haley) [illegible] "teenagers" [illegible] (95 min.) [illegible]

Oceans This cinema/documentary hybrid directed by Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud [illegible]

Our Family Wedding Forest Whitaker, [illegible] *Meet the Parents*-like [illegible] Lance Gross [illegible] Mexican-American [illegible] played by America Ferrera. Naturally, [illegible] Whitaker and Carlos Mencia [illegible]

Shrek Forever After

CATHERINE KEENER AMANDA PEET OLIVER PLATT REBECCA HALL

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LANDMARK THEATRES

Shattuck

Sex and the City 2

[illegible] Russell Crowe [illegible] (131 min.) [illegible]

Pirate Radio For people with [illegible] '60s rock as the soundtrack [illegible] The Boat That Rocked [illegible] (135 min.) [illegible]

Please Give [illegible] Catherine Keener [illegible] Platt [illegible] Rebecca Hall [illegible] Oliver Platt [illegible] (90 min.) CAPR, S

Princess Kaiulani [illegible]

Robin Hood [illegible] Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe [illegible] Robin Hood legend [illegible] King John [illegible] Max Von Sydow [illegible] Cate Blanchett [illegible] Brian Grazer [illegible] (140 min.) [illegible]

The Runaways Directed by Floria Sigismondi [illegible] Dakota Fanning [illegible] Kristen Stewart [illegible] Joan Jett [illegible] Cherie Currie [illegible] (105 min.) [illegible]

The Secret in Their Eyes (El secreto de sus ojos) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

GRAND LAKE THEATRE

SHREK FOREVER AFTER
DLP Digital (PG)
FRI-SAT SUN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 8:30
MON THUR 5:00 7:30 9:30

IRON MAN 2 (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 12:45 4:00 7:15 10:00
MON THUR 4:00 7:15 10:00

SHREK FOREVER AFTER
DLP Digital (PG)
FRI-SAT SUN 1:30 5:00 8:15 10:45
MON WED 3:30 6:00 8:15 10:15

ROBIN HOOD (PG13)
FRI SAT SUN 12:15 3:45 7:00 9:45
MON-WED 3:45, 7:00, 9:45
THUR 4:00 7:10 9:45

SEX AND THE CITY 2 (Starts 5/27) (R)
THUR 3:45 7:00 9:55

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[illegible] Nia Long [illegible]

Solitary Man The story of everyone's [illegible]

To Be an Astronaut [illegible] NASA [illegible]

Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too Tyler Perry directed this sequel to *Why Did I Get Married?* (2007) [illegible] (121 min.) [illegible]

Up in the Air George Clooney once again [illegible] Ryan Bingham [illegible] business school graduate [illegible] (Anna Kendrick) [illegible] Vera Farmiga [illegible] (109 min.) [illegible]

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Tina Fey Steve Carell
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Jennifer Lopez
THE BACK-UP PLAN
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Amanda Seyfried Vanessa Redgrave
LETTERS TO JULIET
(2:30 4:50) 7:10 9:30 PG

Pierce Brosnan Ewan McGregor Kim Cattrall
THE GHOST WRITER

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MAY 20

[illegible]

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Persepolis (96 min., 2007) [illegible] Berkeley, 7:30)

LANDMARK THEATRES

ALBANY 1115 Solano Ave at San Pablo, Albany

THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES (R)

BABIES (PG)

CALIFORNIA

IRON MAN 2 (PG-13)

PIEDMONT 4186 Piedmont at 41st, Oakland

THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN (G)

BABIES (PG)

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (NR)

LETTERS TO JULIET (PG)

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The Cure

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6/8 streetdate

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Devo

"Something for Everybody"
6/15 streetdate.

The long rumored, wildly anticipated album features the band's classic line-up-Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh, Gerald and Bob Casale-joined by drummer Josh Freese (Nine Inch Nails, Guns n' Roses). The album also includes contributions from John Hill and Santi White (better known as rising hip-hop star Santigold), John King of the Dust Brothers, and the Teddybears.

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MISS CALIFORNIA

Melissa Etheridge talks Prop 8, *American Idol*, and being fearless

By Dave Gil de Rubio

For someone as polite and plainspoken as you'd expect a Midwestern native to be, **Melissa Etheridge** has a penchant for attracting drama, more often than not, unintentionally.

Her decision to publicly come out as a lesbian in January 1993 at the Triangle Ball, the gay/lesbian celebration of President **Bill Clinton**'s first inauguration, is old hat compared to the peaks and valleys she's gone through in the subsequent seventeen years. She's had two marriages (the most recent being her seven-year relationship with actress **Tammy Lynn Michaels**). She had two children with first wife **Julie Cypher**, both of whom were fathered by sperm donor **David Crosby**. Then there's the 2007 Academy Award for Best Original Song that Etheridge won for "I Need to Wake Up," which was featured in **Al Gore**'s documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

But the biggest event was unquestionably a 2004 breast cancer diagnosis that turned the Kansas singer-songwriter's world completely upside down. Personally, it changed Etheridge's personal worldview inside out in a way that found her choosing a more enlightened path.

"When one gets sidelined by cancer, you can react in many different ways," she explained from the office in her Los Angeles home. "I chose to let myself be led down that spiritual path of asking what life is. Especially when your dreams come true, and you are successful in every way, go to the top of the mountain and you realize, 'Wow, this is the top of a mountain; it's really not anything else.' There's no answer; there's no better life. But everything is happening inside of me and how I perceive it and react to it. I just started reading and reading and it opened myself up. I got very excited because I realized I wasn't supposed to go out and do things. It was more about what I'm learning in life and how am I being a mirror and shining this back into my world and reality along with the people who listen to my music and my art. I became very excited about my work after that."

With her cancer in remission for the past five years and inspired by this new lease on life, Etheridge musically rebounded with 2008's appropriately titled *The Awakening*. The project, with its theme of self-reflection, avoided preachiness thanks to a healthy infusion of heartland rock-flavored arrangements. Cuts like the inspiring jangle of "Message to Myself" and the plea for tolerance that is "Open Your Mind" reflected a journey through personal trials and a reinvigorated sense of purpose that had seemed to be missing in some of Etheridge's more recent albums.

Her new record *Fearless Love* is the next step in this life journey. "I needed to make *The Awakening* so I would know how to address that part of my life and that part of this journey.

Melissa Etheridge

James Minchin III

After making *The Awakening*, I knew I had to marry those two parts of my life — the spiritual and these lower density emotions. I had to put that all together." Etheridge not only looked to pay stylistic homage to longtime idol **Bruce Springsteen**, but also **The Who**, **Led Zeppelin**, and **Peter Gabriel**. "I love the drama and there's a lot of it here. I think rock 'n' roll has a lot of drama and I think it's best when it's theatrical. I enjoy the theatrical part of it all, particularly songs that are deep, wide stories with large guitar riffs."

Make no mistake, there are tales a-plenty scattered throughout *Fearless Love*. There's the closeted woman at the heart of the guitar-driven "The Wanting of You" who, *looks up to heaven/And wonders why love is so cruel*. Or the swirling power-ballad "Indiana," whose rejected main character was raised by a single mom and who ends up finding solace in her children. Most intriguing is "Miss California," a raunchy rocker that owes more than a nod to The Guess Who's "American Woman," with Etheridge's adopted state substituting for the United States. When she growls, *Your self-destruction gives me sticks and stones/Your proportions make me feel so cold/When the hand that's trying to hold me down is the one that I'm trying to hold*, it's a direct denunciation of California's passing of Proposition 8, banning gay marriage.

Show Details

Melissa Etheridge performs as part of KFOG KaBoom at Candlestick Park (the lot at Candlestick Park, San Francisco) on Saturday, May 22, 3 p.m. $15-$150. KFog.com

Having been wed twice herself, the always outspoken musician was mistaken by many to have declared her intention to withhold state taxes as a form of civil disobedience. It's a rumor that she gently corrects when asked about it. "That was the spin on a blog I wrote. I'd [posted] that maybe I wouldn't pay my taxes," Etheridge recalled. "I pay a lot of taxes to the state and to not have the full benefit of my neighbor, is it really fair? I never intended not to pay my taxes because the IRS doesn't care if I'm gay. They're going to come get me. So for both years, I have paid my taxes. I just put it out there in the world of 'What if?'"

For now, what Etheridge is putting out into the cosmos is plenty of promotion for this new record, which includes dipping her toes into the world of reality television, starting with an appearance on *Dancing With the Stars*, an experience that ended up being surprisingly appealing. "I was in the belly of the beast," she said. "It was interesting being that show is very old-fashioned with the dancing, properness, and getting dressed up. But they were very respectful and I had a really good time."

Of course, any discussion about reality programming would be remiss without mention of *American Idol*, whose current Top 3 includes Ohioan **Crystal Bowersox**, whose throaty singing and way around an acoustic guitar earned her more than a few comparisons to Etheridge. "It's a big marketing machine and you can't blame those companies for trying to figure out what people like. Beside that, the emotional aspect of music as a competition I disagree with," she opined. "Every artist is an artist and needs to be looked at as such. I think it speaks volumes for America and what we need in our arts that Crystal is doing so well. And that people are standing up and taking notice of this very un-pop star that moves them, and what people want is to be moved. They want to hear a song and say they like it. That will never go away and that is proof of that."

Talent shows and new albums aside, Etheridge is currently weathering her way through the aforementioned split from Michaels. For this, Etheridge is taking a very even-keeled approach with a very sanguine outlook befitting someone whose current list of favorite authors includes metaphysics icons like **Abraham-Hicks**, **Gregg Braden**, **Don Miguel Ruiz**, and **Ken Wilber**. "I am walking through it and while I'm in the middle of it so, it's hard to give a sound bite. A big part of getting through this is getting back from the universe what you end up putting out. So I'm responding with love and not fear. Stay tuned." ●

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COOL LIKE O.A.T.

Rapper Do D.A.T. invokes Duke Ellington for his debut, *Oakland in Blue*.

[illegible] Maharaj

There's always that single defining moment when a kid sets his sights on a dream. And it's usually something far less pretentious than what he's willing to divulge in an interview years later. For **Davin Anthony Thompson**, known to his followers as Oakland rapper **Do D.A.T.**, it wasn't **2Pac**'s death or a powerful **Public Enemy** line that made him want to rap and perform in front of an audience — it was the 1992 hip-hop comedy *House Party*.

The scene where **Kid 'N Play** fired insult-laced rhymes at one another inspired Thompson to write some of his own. "The punch lines clicked with me," said Thompson, whose rap alias incorporates his initials and serves as a nod to A Tribe Called Quest.

But Thompson is far from a battle rapper nor is he one for the goofball antics of the aforementioned rapper-actor duo. A veteran of Oakland's underground, the 29-year-old emcee has rocked rallies and festivals alike with his former group, **The Attik**, and its socially aware raps. As an artist development instructor at the **Bay Unity Music Project** in Oakland, he mentors aspiring young musicians, pushing their creative boundaries in the studio and prepping them for the stage. He's a leader with a keen vision. If you only know The Town for its turf tales, Thompson is about to open your ears to a city and sound that embodies so much more.

In today's mixtape and iTunes era where hip-hop albums are not so much albums as compilations of stray $0.99 downloads, Thompson's debut solo LP *Oakland in Blue* is a cohesive work that pairs hip-hop with the sounds of jazz legend **Duke Ellington**. Just as critically acclaimed artists **Raphael Saadiq** and **Mayer Hawthorne** recently rejuvenated soul, Thompson and a team of local producers are making jazz resonate with a younger audience. Thompson and his contemporaries, such as the **Honor Roll League510** and **Nu Dekades**, are part of a creative and collaborative network, helping to break Oakland free of turf rap's clutches.

"It's different now than when The Attik was coming up," Thompson said. "There wasn't the same type of support system. People weren't running in the same circle. If they were, they weren't working as hard. I feel like cats are really on the grind right now."

To that extent, *Oakland in Blue*'s credits reads like the Most Likely to Succeed list from Oakland's hip-hop yearbook. **Will Bracey**, **1-O.A.K.**, **Sean Bo**, and several other producers reinvent Ellington's works while **Melina Jones**, **Mic G**, **Zumbi** of **Zion I**, and **The Sandman** assist Thompson with his narrative. The record hits local and digital retailers May 20, and will be celebrated with a release party at **Club Anton** featuring many of the artists who contributed to the album.

Show Details

Oakland in Blue album release party happens at Club Anton (428 3rd St., Oakland) on Thursday, May 20, 10 p.m., $10. Featuring Do D.A.T., The Park, Melina Jones, Ismael I. Amari, Iris Genesis, The Sandman, Knowtall, Kryste Azul, and Trick N Beat DJs.

Do D.A.T.

Even with a central theme, the sounds on *Oakland in Blue* morph and moods shift. The laidback cool of "Color Scheme" puts listeners at ease while he tips his hat to his hometown: *Oakland in blue here's hoping that you/Never overflow in this city of dope making in truth/We ain't broken but bruised//My words wrap wounds.* Then there's "Dat Dat Dat," a bouncy 1-O.A.K.-produced big band banger that conjures images of a juke joint in a frenzy.

"When Attik broke up, I was lost and not sure what direction to take," Thompson recalled. He had a conversation with friend and co-worker **Robert Collins**, former manager of Zion I, about his music. Collins suggested he focus an album on one artist's work. A jazz fan, Thompson chose Ellington because of his expansive body of work, which includes more than 2,000 compositions from a fifty-year career. Thompson's got about 200 of Ellington's works in his record collection, from which he selected samples to send to producers.

"It's not easy to flip a swing sample," Thompson said. "It's not like it's on a metronome. To really do that, you have to be on point with your game. Whatever they made was cool, but I told them to keep it jazzy. Don't stray too far from that sound."

Venturing into jazz was natural for Thompson. "That jazz, that swing — that's how I rap," Thompson said. Anyone who's seen him live can attest to his almost scat-like flow. He plays with his words like a free-jazz musician, experimenting with tempo and cadence to create versatile rhyme patterns and turn each verse into an intricate work of art.

You can also hear how Thompson's aged on *Oakland in Blue*. "I'm more vulnerable," Thompson said. "A lot of my stuff was braggadocio, fuck-the-system, America the ugly. I'm definitely affected by America, but I see the part that I play in the system now. I'm more about deconstructing myself than going head-on against the government."

Thompson hopes to hit it big, but for now he just wants to get his music out. "I'm hoping that this will be something that people will want to talk about," he said. "Who flips swing samples? I don't think anybody in my neck of the woods is doing stuff that sounds like this." ●

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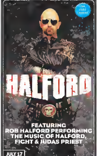

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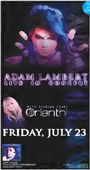

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EAR BUD

MUSICIANS SEEK A KICK-START

Micro-funding for the DIY set. Plus locals try to expose underground niches

By Kathleen Wentz

Kickstarter.com is a Brooklyn-based web site that allows independent musicians, artists, writers, and other creative folk to fund-raise for specific projects on a micro level. And a bunch of Bay Area artists are using the site — which is like Kiva for starving artists — to help realize their dreams.

San Francisco singer-songwriter **Lia Rose** of the band **Built for the Sea** is currently trying to raise $10,000 to record her debut solo album. So far she's raised nearly $3,800. Oaklander **Alice Tong**, meanwhile, is seeking $6,000 to help her band go on tour. She needs another $3,000 by her CD release party on May 29 at the **Hotel Utah**.

Other projects are smaller, and only seek a few hundred or thousand dollars. Anyone can pledge a donation for any project on the site, but will only be charged if the project meets its intended goal by the deadline (anywhere from one to ninety days). In exchange, donors often get specialized incentives based on the level of donation (such as a copy of the final product) or just the gratification that they've contributed to a cool project. One of the most popular projects on the site is a massive metal sculpture called **Syzygryd**, which will be on display at this year's **Burning Man**. Designed by Oakland artists, it allows viewers to compose music using touchscreen controllers, which then controls fire spewing from the sculpture.

Sounds of the Experimental Latino Underground

Ann Blankenship wants people to know that Latino music isn't just salsa, cumbia, and merengue. Since 2008 she has produced **Convergence** — a sort of mini festival within the annual **Mission Creek Music & Arts Festival** — in order to raise the local profile of experimental and progressive artists from Mexico and Latin America. For this year's Mission Creek (July 14-18), Blankenship plans to forgo the usual fest and throw a "preview party" in order to conserve her energy for next year's Convergence, which she plans to make bigger and better. "I'm trying to do a pretty ambitious festival next year," she said. Specifically, Blankenship said she wants to expand the film component.

At this point, Blankenship says Convergence might spin off from Mission Creek and become its own entity, though she still might collaborate with the San Francisco indie music festival for another project, like a silent film screening with live accompaniment. There's no hard date yet, but Blankenship says Convergence 2011 will be held in summer or fall. She just got fiscal sponsorship through **Intersection for the Arts** and wants to collaborate with other local bands and organizations, including **San Francisco International Arts Festival**.

The preview party will be hosted by **Marcelo Baez** and feature performances by **Le Butcherettes** (Guadalajara), **Monstruobot** (Spain), **Gema De Los Deseos** (SF), and San Francisco mariachi-punk band **Los Murderachis**. On July 17 at **Plaza Tres Agaves** (130 Townsend St., San Francisco), 7 p.m., $10.

New "Folk" Music Series

A new monthly series aims to bring together disparate elements of the Bay Area music scene, showcasing the best of what the local community has to offer. Called **"San Folk Disco"** and launched by local songwriter **JL Stiles**, the event features three artists every month. If you're thinking that the last thing the Bay Area needs is more "folk," it appears that the moniker will be loosely adhered to. Says Stiles: "each show will seek to seamlessly veer from intimate acoustic moments to carousing Mission blasting rock via dancing on the ceiling funlady-your-life party bands, folk, funk, soul, rock, indie, alt-country, post folk and pre-post post twenties." The series also appears to be a format for Stiles to showcase himself. The fourth event happens Thursday, May 27, at **Cafe du Nord** with **Eric McFadden**, Stiles, and **Jenny Kerr**. 9 p.m., $10-$12.

Eric McFadden.

Miscellaneous Debris

A new compilation of mostly Modesto songwriters called *Portraits*, released by **Off the Air Productions**, captures some of that region's talent, plus locals **Mike Sempert** of **Birds & Batteries**, **Kid Mud**, and **Garrett Pierce**. The album is streaming on ReverbNation.com and a local release show will be held on Saturday, July 10 at **City Art** (828 Valencia St., San Francisco), 7-10 p.m., free. ... Researchers at **Stanford** may offer hope for the hearing impaired. According to a recently published report, they've been able to develop mouse cells that "look and act just like animal's inner-ear hair cells — the linchpin to our sense of hearing and balance — in a petri dish," according to a press release. Actually regenerating these cells in humans is likely many years away, but the research is promising. ... Music marketing company **Terrorbird Media** (which has offices in Oakland, NYC, and LA) will celebrate its four-year anniversary Thursday, May 20, at **Milk Bar** (1840 Haight St., SF). The event will feature performances by some of its local clients, including Oakland's **Man/Miracle**, SF's **Baths**, the East Bay's **The Splinters**, and **Sister Crayon** (Sacto), plus DJ sets from **Sugar & Gold** and **Disco Shawn**. 8 p.m., $5. ... Local indie-pop band **Social Studies** have signed to East Bay label **Antenna Farm Records**, whose roster also includes locals **Bart Davenport**, **Winfred E. Eye**, **Beam**, **Still Flyin'**, **Papercuts**, and **The Dry Spells**. The label will release Social Studies' new record, *Wind Up Wooden Heart*, on July 27. They play **SF Popfest** at the **Rickshaw Stop** on Thursday, May 27 with **Tune Yards**. ●

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Ear Bud is culled from our music blog, Ear Bud.

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CD REVIEWS

WINTER IN SPRING

Subversive Americana, nostalgic trip-hop, and a soulful blues crooner

Horse Feathers

Thistled Spring

Everything about this disc — the band's handle, CD title, pastoral cover photo — seems to shout "Americana," until you listen. Portland, Oregon's Horse Feathers beautifully subvert the "conventions" of Americana. While the instrumentation is classic bluegrass — acoustic guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, bass — it's mostly not used in any sort of bluegrass or country manner. The band's song structures are more akin to the intricately arranged, introspective dream-pop of David Sylvian, Greg Laswell, Jim O'Rourke (the latter in "song" mode, of course), and (later) American Music Club. Instead of shimmering guitars and electronically processed sounds, unamplified stringed-things dress up the tunes, leaving plenty of room for silence within. The rare times where traditional styles come to the fore are the Irish echoes in "As A Ghost" and "Verona Blues" evokes the Western story-songs of Marty Robbins and the modal British Isles balladry of Bert Jansch.

Compared to their previous disc, the austere, almost baroque *House With No Home*, *Thistled Spring* is positively orchestral (albeit with only the above instruments plus cello). This is the first Horse Feathers release without co-founder Peter Broderick, but Justin Ringle's harmonious, boyish voice (strongly recalling the great Iain Matthews) is still the focal point of the songs. He conveys the melodies in a measured, compassionate tone, belying the melancholy and often bleak aspects of his lyrics. This disc truly *sounds* and *feels* like winter in the northern half of the USA, with its wide-open spaces, bare trees, snow-covered fields, and their desolate, frigid beauty. (Kill Rock Stars)

— *Mark Keresman*

Horse Feathers play Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Sunday, May 23, with Dawn Landes and Garrett Pierce. 9 p.m. $12. BottomoftheHill.com

Massive Attack

Heligoland

Once far ahead of its time, trip-hop pioneer Massive Attack now sounds dated, returning with a new album treading the same grooves that made the Bristol DJs international stars. From the first deep bass notes and slow, grinding rhythm, *Heligoland* bears all the signature marks of a Massive Attack record. But while this guest-laden and long-delayed fifth album from Robert Del Naja and Grant Marshall is steady and competent, it never quite hits the peaks expected from Massive Attack. *Heligoland* is the duo's first album in seven years, and though it easily surpasses the forgettable *100th Window*, this comeback falls short of Massive Attack's trio of phenomenal albums in the 1990s.

Featuring TV on the Radio's Tunde Adebimpe on vocals, the opener "Pray for Rain" has that grimy aura Massive Attack perfected long ago. And Hope Sandoval brings a whispery seduction to "Paradise Circus," an example of the pulsating sexiness that became one of trip-hop's core elements. "Saturday Come Slow," with Damon Albarn on vocals, is a chill-out track, with a hazy, thumping beat.

Sadly, however, the strength of the individual songs depend more on the guest vocalist than the production team. Like *Third*, Portishead's 2008 comeback album after a significant hiatus, *Heligoland* serves as a reminder of Massive Attack's groundbreaking past just as much as a new edition to the band's catalog. But while it won't duplicate the success of *Mezzanine* or *Protection*, *Heligoland* duplicates enough of the sound and spirit of those classics to deliver an hour's worth of trippy nostalgia. (Virgin)

— *Eric Swedlund*

Massive Attack plays the Warfield (982 Market St., San Francisco) on May 25 & 26. 8 p.m. $44.75-$49.75. Ticketmaster.com

John Németh

Name The Day!

John Németh claims to have perfect pitch, and it's evident throughout his third Blind Pig CD, particularly in how he moves between a ringing tenor and resonant baritone when executing ascending and descending octave jumps. It's a device that's been used effectively over the years by countless singers — Junior Parker and Aretha Franklin come to mind — yet too few do it these days. The Oakland-based bluesman does it to chilling result in the middle of the churchy, slow-dragging "Why Not Me," one of ten original compositions on the eleven-track disc, when he leaps an octave, then soars even higher for two more notes without stopping to breathe. At age 34, Németh is with little doubt the most accomplished male vocalist of his generation traveling the blues highway today.

Only two of the tunes — the hard-shuffling "Heartbreak with a Hammer" and the eighth-note-driven "Funky Feelin'" — are twelve-bar blues. Like Parker, his most obvious stylistic model, Németh is both a bluesman and a soul man. The boogaloo grooves that propel the majority of the selections suggest the influence of some of Parker's recordings from the 1960s. Drummer Nick Fishman and bassist Smokey Davis' busily syncopated soul patterns on these numbers, along Bobby Welsh's brittle-toned, Memphis-style guitar work, are refreshingly retro. Németh's occasional harmonica solos are models of economy and musical taste — and like his singing, deeply soulful. (Blind Pig)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

John Németh plays Biscuits & Blues (401 Mason St., San Francisco) on Thursday, May 20. 8 & 10 p.m. $18. BiscuitsandBlues.com

To share this story go to ebx.by.px/nd3

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Rick Di Dia & Arnene Espirito

The Ten Ton Feather

Rick Di Dia & Arnene Espirito do rootsy Americana with a whole lot of skill. Country, blues, and folk come together with slightly rough-around-the-edges male and female vocals and lyrics with a melancholy edge to create a sound that's unexpectedly timeless. Extra points for the particularly skillful banjo picking that lend an eerie edge to "Shine." (self-released)

At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on May 22. 8 p.m. $18.50, $19.50

Grace Woods Trio

A Good Day in Red Pepper EP

It's hard to figure out what Grace Woods Trio is going for stylistically. It's a little bit jazz, and sort of pop, but it's not an entirely comfortable blend. Vocals are harsh and oddly grating, almost off key, and the bass is so high in the mix that it's hard to hear anything else. It's a puzzling album from a band that's in need of a much better producer. (self-released)

Ten Ton Chicken

[illegible]

Imagine starting with classic Latin rock, then adding reggae, a bit of funk, hints of ska, and some off-kilter humor, and you're got Ten Ton Chicken, an odd yet fun band. The skill level is higher than you might expect from a band that produced a song as irreverent as "Second Cousin." Hire them for your next backyard party. (self-released)

At the Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on May 27. 9 p.m. $6

McCabe & Mrs. Miller

Time for Leaving

Time for Leaving is a lovely, gentle little slice of blues with some folk and country tinges. Named after the 1971 Western, McCabe & Mrs. Miller may lack Warren Beatty, but they have a lot of the movie's homey charm. The lyrics read like an homage to the Old West, and everything about the band is smooth and polished. (*Magnetic*)

At the Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on May 20. 9 p.m. free

Bay Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.
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CONCERTS &CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

[illegible]: tickets go on sale Sunday May 23 at 10 am, [illegible] July 23, 8 p.m., $35-$45. The Warfield, 982 Market St.

[illegible]: tickets go on sale Sunday May 23 at 10 am, Thu., July 29, 8 p.m. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd.

Christina Aguilera: tickets go on sale Friday May 21 at 10 am. Wed., Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. The Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View.

[illegible]: tickets go on sale Sunday May 23 at 11 am, Sat., Aug. 28, 8 p.m. $25. The Warfield, 982 Market St.

Jonas Brothers: tickets go on sale Saturday May 22 at 10 am. Sun., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. The Sleep Train Amphitheatre, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord.

[illegible]: tickets go on sale Sunday May 23 at 10 am. Sat., July 31, 8 p.m., $37-$47. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St.

Scorpions, w/ Cinderella: tickets go on sale Saturday May 22 at 10 am. Sun., Aug. 1, 7 p.m. The Sleep Train Amphitheatre, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord.

Something Corporate: tickets go on sale Sunday May 23 at 10 am, Tue., Aug. 24, 8:30 p.m. $30. The Warfield, 982 Market St.

[illegible]: tickets go on sale Friday May 21 at 10 am. Thu., July 1, 8 p.m. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd.

THURSDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]: The Bottle Rock, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ Red Hot Chachkas, [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

[illegible] Release: Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 7:30 pm, $9

[illegible]: La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 pm, $8, $5 [illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible]: CSUEB University Theatre, noon, free

[illegible]: live guitar. Cafe Casa Vino [illegible], 7-8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] High School Jazz Ensemble [illegible], 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] Presents [illegible] CD Release Party! w/ [illegible] Grand Gallery Performance Space, 8 pm, free

The Jazz Crusaders Featuring: Joe Sample, Wayne Henderson and [illegible]: Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$40, $5 [illegible] Sunday matinee

Thursday Night Jazz [illegible], 8:15 pm, free

Rock & Pop

An Acoustic Singer-songwriter [illegible] Hosted by and including Paul [illegible]: [illegible], 8:30 pm, free

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible]: Beckett's, 10 pm, free

[illegible]: Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, free

[illegible] and Mrs. Miller w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 pm, free

The [illegible]: [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

[illegible]: [illegible] Club, 8 pm, [illegible]

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

[illegible]: [illegible], The [illegible], & Blues Canyon, The [illegible] Bar, 8 pm, $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

"Take Back the Mic" Festival featuring [illegible], & more, [illegible], 8 pm, $10-$15

Unplugged live R&B band, 8 pm [illegible] after 11 p.m., Club Jones, 8 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & La Tercera [illegible]: Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $16-$20, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Friends, Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $20

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible] Night all-star blues jam, Slim's [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible]: Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & The [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $17

Classical & Opera

[illegible] & [illegible]: classical guitar performance, [illegible], 7 pm, free

San Francisco Symphony w/ [illegible], Davies Symphony Hall, 8 pm, $25-$130

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible]: Project Artaud Theater, 8 pm, $16-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]: musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] [illegible] the world in search of [illegible], Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

[illegible]: San Francisco-based [illegible] performs live jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 pm, $10

[illegible] & The [illegible] Trio: [illegible] Room, 8 pm, $35-$45

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Powell St. John, [illegible], 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible]

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] of Eden, [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible]: Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10-$12

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 pm, free

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]: Coda, 9:30 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & Los [illegible]: Mojito, 6:30 pm, free

[illegible] & La Tercera [illegible]: Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $16-$20, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

7 Orange ABC w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 8:30 pm, $8

[illegible]: The [illegible] Rock, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] & [illegible]: Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$28.50

[illegible]: Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Quartet: [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] Fridays 5th [illegible] Performance [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$15

The Jazz Crusaders Featuring: Joe Sample, Wayne Henderson and [illegible]: Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$40, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

[illegible] Trio: [illegible], 8:30 pm, free

[illegible]: [illegible] Lodge, 8:30 pm, $20

[illegible]: [illegible] College, 7 pm, $10-$15

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Gilman, 7:30 pm, [illegible]

[illegible]: Amoeba Music, 5:30 pm, free

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 pm, [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible] and Bar, 9 pm, $10

[illegible]: Beckett's, 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Room for a Ghost, [illegible], 8 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The New Parish, 8 pm, $10-$22

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & La Tercera [illegible]: Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$20, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

[illegible]: live flamenco guitar & [illegible] on [illegible], 7:30 pm, free

[illegible] & [illegible] w/ [illegible] Band, Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $10-$13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible]: Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

"[illegible]" [illegible] bluegrass bands, Plough and Stars, 9 pm, $6-$10 sliding scale

[illegible]: [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 9 pm, $20

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony w/ [illegible], Davies Symphony Hall, 8 pm, $25-$130

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible]: Project Artaud Theater, 8 pm, $16-$20

[illegible]: San Francisco [illegible], 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]: musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] around the world in search of [illegible], Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$81

[illegible] Orchestra: Top of the Mark, 9 pm, $10

[illegible]: [illegible] Room, 6:15 pm, $25

[illegible] Trio: [illegible] Room, 8 pm, $35-$45

Rock & Pop

[illegible]: [illegible] Lounge, 9:30 pm, $15-$18

[illegible] w/ The [illegible], The Regency Center, 8 pm, $35-$50

[illegible]: solo piano, [illegible] Lounge, 6-9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] New York, The [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] & The [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $8

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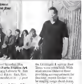
PICKS

Berkeley Akademie

Kent Nagano returns to Berkeley this week to conduct the **Berkeley Akademie**. Drawn from the players of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, the Akademie will play the new — Jörg Widmann's *Versuch über die Fuge* (*Attempt at the Fugue*) with soprano Christine Brandes — with the tried-and-true — Beethoven's Quintet in E-flat for piano and winds and Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major with Widmann as soloist. At the **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, May 20, 8 p.m., $20-$80. 510-841-2800 or BerkeleySymphony.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Mark Growden

Local singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Mark Growden** has been making bluesy roots music since the mid-Nineties, moving from avant-jazz to his current penchant for dark, cabaret-style tunes. His music has deep roots in the African-American songs of the South, and several tunes on his current tour de force *Saint Judas* are based on folk songs that were well-known to both black and white musicians in the days before folk and blues became separate categories. His music is dense, thorny, and a bit ominous, and his strong vocals are full of dramatic poetry. Growden and his band play Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 20-22 at **Forte Franco Art Parlor** (1033 Valencia St., San Francisco). 8 p.m., $20, $50. ForteFrancoArt.com. — *j. poet*


Roky Erickson & Okkervil River

Roky Erickson & Okkervil River

Often mentioned in the same breath as fellow rock 'n' roll savants **Daniel Johnston** and **Syd Barrett**, **Roky Erickson** became a cult figure as part of Austin's rich garage and psychedelic rock scenes both as the leader of the **13th Floor Elevators** and a solo act before the combination of drugs and mental illness sidetracked him. The heartbreaking 2005 documentary *You're Gonna Miss Me* captured his story and since then Erickson has gotten back on his feet after a decade of not playing music. With *True Love Cast Out All Evil*, his first album of new material in fourteen years, Erickson joined forces with fellow Texans **Okkervil River** to record songs penned over the past four decades, some of which date to a stint he spent in the Rusk State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in East Texas some years back. With studiomates Okkervil River providing accompaniment for this tour, expect Erickson to be singing songs about Jesus, electro-shock treatment, and psychedelic mushrooms as he brings his inspirational comeback to the Bay Area by way of The Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco) on Thursday, May 20. 8 p.m., $29.50. TheFillmore.com. — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Ron Carter Trio

Double bassist **Ron Carter** has enough longevity to be the subject of several grainy black-and-white YouTube videos — including the epic footage of a historic concert in Stockholm, with Miles Davis on trumpet, Herbie Hancock on piano, Wayne Shorter on sax, and Tony Williams holding down drum duties. Carter backed Miles' quintet for several years in the early Sixties and later recorded with other legends from the Blue Note catalog (including Freddie Hubbard, Lee Morgan, and Andrew Hill). At this point, Carter is one of the only canonical jazz artists who is hip enough to get his albums reviewed in *Vibe* magazine. The Beastie Boys sampled one of his bass lines on their hit rap song, "Pass the Mic." At 73 years old, Carter still hangs with the most stylish cats on the scene. He'll appear at **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24-26 with pianist **Mulgrew Miller** (who backed hip-hop drummer Kareem Riggins last year) and drummer **Russell Malone**. $12-$20. Yoshis.com. — *Rachel Swan*

Mark Growden

C&C

[illegible] w/ [illegible], *Le Fleur*, Ill Blu, 9 pm. $3-$5
Jolakle w/ Repeater, The Northern Key, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm. $6
Kaki King The Fillmore, 8 pm. TBA
Matt Lowe w/ The Silent Comedy, Mississippi Man & The Stoolwells, Elbo Room, 9 pm. $4-$10
[illegible] Edwards w/ [illegible], [illegible] & the [illegible], [illegible] Mob, & [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm. $15-$20
The [illegible] DNA Lounge, 8 pm. $15
The Paper [illegible] w/ Swinging For Change, The Attack Plan, & Five Minutes to Freedom, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm. $15
The [illegible] w/ [illegible], & [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm. $23-$28
Temporary Rock Formation w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm. $7
[illegible] in the Back Room w/ The [illegible], [illegible] Club 26, 9 pm. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ The Whiskey And The Devil, [illegible], The Hellgoats, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm. $10-$12
Dynamic Cada, 10 pm. $10
[illegible] Fiends Tour Club Six, 9 pm. $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Cuban Nights Buena Vista-style Latin dancing w/ [illegible], & [illegible], Peña Pachamama, 8:30 pm. $15.00
Eddie Palmieri & La Perfecta II Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm. $10-$30, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

SATURDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Thornton The Saddle Rack, 10:30 pm. [illegible]
[illegible] Lynch w/ [illegible] Allen's High Rolling Horses, Joe Doc, Starry Plough, 9:30 pm. $8
[illegible] & Aimee [illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm. $18.50-$19.50
Sugar Mike Cafe [illegible], 2 pm. free

C&C

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Electroacoustic Battle Oakland, Lou Bank, Ron Dane, Clae Oakland, 8 anim, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space. 8:30 pm. tba

Light A Fire: Stew, Obsidian, & Club Gamma Mama Buzz Cafe and Buzz Gallery. 7:30 pm. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Anniversary Oakland: A Jazz Arts Festival! featuring Bay Area [illegible] Society Caravan of All Stars, E.W. Wainwright's Buddle Brass of Jazz, Howard Wiley and the Oakland New Band, Henry Clement's Garage Band, & more. San Ramon Park. 11 am. free

Friday Frolics Spiedaleimer. 8 pm. tba

The Jazz Crusaders Featuring: Joe Sample, Wayne Henderson and Wilton Felder Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $35-$40. $8 Bar for Sunday matinee

Oakland Mercer Cafe Van Kleef. 9 pm. free

Dana [illegible] Saunders Jerrakeel. 8 pm. free

Rock & Pop

Go Kart Romeo Brass Cafe. 7 pm. free

Bill Pimento A Scudiyrfied Friday Rock w/ As long The Living, Five Characters in Search Of An Exit, Blakk on Telegraph. 8 pm. $10

Outsider Magazine Alameda, **Virginia Oakland S** Oakland, Geographer, Brass

Swans, & The Northern Key. Oakland. 8 pm. $8

Bobby Alley Band Rookie's. 10 pm. free

Talk It Theatre w/ Davison, In Singhat, Woyla, & Cardboard Funeral. 924 Gilman. 7:30 pm. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Tree Club Art House Gallery & Cultural Center. 7:30 pm. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

All Night Oakland milonga class 8-9:30 p.m. then party til 11 and, Berkeley Oakland [illegible] Arts. 10:30 pm. $15 includes [illegible]. $10 for just milonga

Battle of Bar Salsa Battle 8 Oakland, Alameda, Oakland. 8:30 pm. $20

[illegible] Jupiter. 8 pm. tba

Radio Pokahol & La Alameda, 8 Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm. $16-$20. $8 bar for Sunday matinee

Romen Nights: A Family Friendly, Cuman Oakland Club featuring The Martin Friends Band, The Desfrolleal Band, Chestnut Hall. 6 pm. $40-$50

Tambores de Romeiros w/ Pagoda Grupo da Sete. Aphdernas. 9 pm. $10-$15

Blues, Folk & Country

The 8th Annual Honky-Tonk Showdown featuring The Whisky Oakland, Martial Racer, the Redpots, & Kristen Hence. Cafe du Nord. 8 pm. $10-$13

Bar Oakland Ladies w/ New York Border dance group Kate Bowd Company. Rue Valley Mystery. 8 pm. $18-$20

Bar Lauderdale Oakland Music. 2 pm. tba

Kalona Rowen w/ Bruce Monsoonie. 10 pm.

Zoffin Bradshaw Blah. 8 pm. $12

Mandolinata of Main live Italian folk music w/ Steve Magnano. Caffe Lucca. 10:30 pm-12:30 pm. free

Bad Pizzas and Bar Gordon Flyers Romeo & Dona. 6 & 10 pm. $22

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony w/ Dazzle. Diablo Symphony Hall. 7 pm. $25-$130

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Baggage Allowance Project Artaud Theatre. 8 pm. $18-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Grain Oakland Ballety musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi. 7 & 10 pm. $25-$77

Universe East Cragswtch Rowen. 9-11 pm. free

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924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.

Air Bar & Lounge 450 8th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2377.

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com.

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.

Ashkenaz Music 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.

Ashby Stage 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1126.

Alameda 2700 Marina Vista Ave., 925-276-6085.

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170.

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.

Blah 4825 Hopyard, Pleasanton, 925-456-0777.

Bay Gorilla Club 5616 Bay St., Emeryville.

Bernard's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-1790.

Boston and Bar 850 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2704.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957.

Betty's Rock Bar 1252 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, 925-975-0130.

The Point 1081 B St., Hayward, 510-880-8520.

Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886.

Caffe Center 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5288.

Campo di Bocce 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-249-9800.

Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550.

Club 23 2311 Broadway St., Oakland, 510-789-9426.

Club Oasis 426 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-0183.

Club 2 632 3rd St., Oakland, 510-879-3707.

Center Grill 3303 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-1274.

College Lane 659 Forty St., Oakland, 925-278-3347.

Congo Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2861.

Dan's Irish Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-932-4308.

Eagles Hall 2305 Oakland Ave., Alameda, 510-295-0085.

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave.,

Oakland, 510-338-4911.

Center & Nears Broadway 128 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2250.

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3568.

Fox Rooms 5807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com.

Forum 171 W Fernayon Rd., Hayward, 510-783-1130.

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020.

Greek Hall UC Berkeley, Piedmont Way at College Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

Diablo Paradise Club 1428 Oakland St., Alameda, 510-865-3725.

Alhambra 2062 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373.

Center Community Center of the East Bay 3414 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237.

Julie's Center & Rec Rooms 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2300.

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277.

Caribbean City 1400 Webster St., Oakland, 510-758-9709.

Marvin's Oakland 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6401.

King Tuts Oakland Roadhouse 1100 Solano Ave., Berkeley.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464.

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888.

Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-601-9390.

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.

La Gasi de Club 3300 Diablo Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2373.

Lake Chalet Garden Pleasanton Rooms 3320 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4752.

Lakeshore Rooms Rooms Rooms 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-803-3484.

Laney College Theatre 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543.

Last Mountain Lounge 2307 Jones Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700.

Lounge 3411 3411 Mountain Blvd., Oakland.

Luka's Mountain Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677.

Center's Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7660.

Oakland's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland, [illegible]

Oakland Lounge 600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2020.

Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga, 408-741-2822.

Rooms Club 6500 Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-585-5344.

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-5806.

Oakland Diablo Convalescent 650 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-8140.

ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.

Para Dise Lounge 2277 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-735-5095.

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400.

Bar New Parish 1743 San Pablo St., Oakland, 510-444-7474, theNewParish.com.

Peter's Roadhouse 27 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-284-7847.

Roadhouse Rooms 158 Main St., Oakland, 925-846-8100.

Nights Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2780.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland.

Mountain Diablo 3550 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4897.

Rooster's Roadhouse 1200 Clement Ave., Alameda, 510-337-6500.

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224.

Center Rock 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-657-5477.

Rowen's Room Line 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159.

Oakland Nightclub 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 100, San Ramon.

Pleasanton Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000.

Spiedaleimer 2424 Center Ave., Oakland, 510-522-1300.

Spoonbeds Lounge 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-877-1568.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107.

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830.

Stony Plough 2101 Oakland Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2087.

Brass Cafe 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174.

Sweet Fingers 444 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-353-1600.

Oakland 1538 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-481-1590.

Center Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-6615.

Diablo Vineyards Roadhouse 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450.

Zellerbach Roadhouse UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4280.

White Horse Bar 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820.

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124.

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WED 5/19
MOJO STEW
Bay Mojo Stew mixes jazz, funk, soul rock and blues for an eclectic and tasty mix of musical styles. The band likes to take on pop tunes in new and different ways and they've worked up a healthy dose of original material as well.
www.myspace.com/mojostewmusic

THU 5/20
SELECTOR:DIETSNAKS & KARAMO SISSOKO
Bay The Audio Culinary Experts Diet and Dubsnaks serve up the delicious international blend of funk, nu jazz and electronic music every 3rd Thursday and this week welcome in special guest and Stronghold Sound compatriot, drummer Karamo Sissoko.
www.myspace.com/dietsnaks

FRI 5/21
DANA SALZMAN QUARTET
Bay Oakland's own Dana Salzman has been playing music since the age of four. Classically and then jazz trained with a degree from the New School of Jazz and Contemporary music, Dana's influences range from Etta James, Roy Ayers, and West Coast rap.
www.myspace.com/danasalzman

SAT 5/22
CV ONE
The CV One is an all instrumental mash-up of classic Jamaican dub grooves, psychedelic guitar, and beautiful jazz-improv.
www.myspace.com/cv1music

SUN 5/23
AMERICANA UNPLUGGED
CLAUDIA RUSSELL
Bay This week we bask in on the burgeoning movement of Americana. Claudia's wonderful songs are matched by her beautiful voice and backed up with a very talented band, which includes Bruce Kaplan on mandolin, guitar and vocals, and Mark Petrella on string bass.
www.claudiarussell.com

[illegible]

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LIVE MUSIC BY FROMAGIGQUEER

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Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 5/19 8:00 pm $11 — BLUES "Sweet & Low Down Wednesdays" THOMPSON BLUES STOMPERS featuring Eric & Suzy Thompson. 8:00 pm blues dance lesson

THU 5/20 8:00 pm $10-$15 sliding scale — TAKE BACK THE MIC. SOULFÉGE Afrobeat from L.A. AUDIOPHARMACY SEASUHZ & AMBESSA, AARON ABLEMAN ENSEMBLE & MORE. Music, community, storytelling, arts

FRI 5/21 9:30 pm $15, $18 Bayside — HAITIAN FLAG DAY CELEBRATION. MYSTIC MAN & LARAY KASCIN DEDE Haitian Roots Band. RARA FUSION Haitian dance troupe. 8:30 pm Haitian dance lesson

SAT 5/22 9:00 pm $13, $16 Bayside — EPAZ I AN CARNAVAL EXTRAVAGANZA. TAMBORES DO GEMELEXO, AQUARELA DANCE GROUP, PAGODE GRUPO DA SETE. 8:00 pm Pagode & Samba-Reggae dance lesson

SUN 5/23 3:00 pm $6 teens, $4 kids — "SUNNY SUNDAYS" KIDS SERIES. LADYBUG PICNIC. Fun-filled original acoustic music and folk classics + juggling and more!

SUN 5/23 7:00 pm $8 — FUNDRAISER. BISHOP O'DOWD JAZZ BAND END OF THE YEAR BLOWOUT

TUE 5/25 6:30 pm $10 — ZYDECO. MOTORDUDE ZYDECO. 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson

WED 5/26 8:00 pm $7 — FOLKDANCE. BALKAN FOLKDANCE. 8:00 pm dance lessons

THU 5/27 9:00 pm $10, $12 Bayside — PSYCHEDELIC ROCK. MARK KARAN of Ratdog, Other Ones & more. & JEMIMAH PUDDLEDUCK

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2pm LITTLE MUDDY
Oakland [illegible] rock
littlemuddy.com

6/6/10
2pm BIG B & HIS SNAKE OIL SAVIORS
[illegible]
myspace.com/bigbandhissnakeoilsaviors

6/13/10
1pm LADY LAZARUS
myspace.com/ladylazarusintheory
2pm GHOSTPORN
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American Aerie Ball [illegible] 8 pm. $20
Owen Whitfield & The Mike Greensill Trio Brava Room, 7 pm. $35-$45

Rock & Pop

Bad E. Lee Brava Room, 9:30 pm. $30
Eyeballflow featuring Bosco Riggs, Early Paul, Cindy. Grace Cathedral, 7 pm. tba
Evelyn Evelyn w/ Greg Storey, matinee Palmer. A [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 pm. $23-$26
Leatherface w/ Ninja Gun, Young Livers. Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm. $17
Melissa Etheridge/John Butler Trio Candlestick Park, 3 pm. tba
Midnight Vio w/ [illegible] Mezzanine, 9:30 pm. $8
Motherlode w/ The Devil's Bum, [illegible], Thee Parkside, 8 pm. $10
Brett Garsed Hotel Utah, 4 pm. $10
The Spinners w/ Supernatural Lazy and the Angered Generation & [illegible] Poised Pit Poets, 9 pm. $5
Stacey Dee and Lil Jen w/ [illegible], Mike McGuire & [illegible]. Rosamunde Rooms, 5 pm. $5
Groundhogs w/ Kelley Stoltz. The Knuckle dent. 8 pm. $20
Sugar Spot w/ The Sky Fisher, Lost Poppy, Thee Parkside, 3 pm. free
This Charming Gives Lounge by The Lounge and Morrissey w/ Love Vigilantes, [illegible] Street. [illegible] 9 pm. $15
Traffic A charity benefit for the Somaly Mam Foundation. Elbo Room, 10 pm. tba
The Be The Echo w/ [illegible] & Fair & Ad in Heaven. [illegible] 8 pm. $7
Y & T The Fillmore, 9 pm. tba

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Blues Proc w/ Rae Crelon, Unity, Salsamie, & more. Boom Boom Room, 8 pm. tba

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Brazuca Salsa Yerba Buena Gardens, 1 pm. free
Eddie Palmieri & La Perfecta II Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm. $18-$30. $5 kids for Sunday matinee
Eddy Dinos w/ Gabriel Hawk, Sukay, [illegible] Pachamama, 7:30 pm. $18
Lounge Major [illegible] St. Mary's Cathedral, 8 pm. $20-$40
Lounge Gold SF featuring Daddy Kev, Mr. [illegible], & more. Club Six, 9 pm. $10-$15
Solo Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm. tba

SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Boulevard Unplugged: [illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm. tba
The Greencards Freight & Salvage, 8 pm. $18.50-$19.50
Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions [illegible] band every week. Peter's Restaurant, 5 pm. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Ocean Handbook Orchestra [illegible] 8 pm. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bishop O'Dowd Jazz Band End of the Year Blowout Ashkenaz, 7 pm. $8
The Jazz Guardians Featuring: Joe Sample, Sandra Henderson and [illegible] Fielder Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm. $35-$40. $5 kids for Sunday matinee
The American Jazz Quartet [illegible] contemporary jazz. [illegible], 4-6 pm. tba
John Santos/Rudy [illegible] Jazzschool, 5 pm. fee
[illegible] Ensemble Jazzschool, 4:30 pm. free
Terrace Lounge The Monte, 5:30-8 pm. tba

Kids

Ladybug Picnic Ashkenaz, 3 pm. $6, $4 kids.

Rock & Pop

The Billy Lounge Room Brainstorm Cafe and Bar, 8 pm. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Backyard BBQ Pot Luck & Benefit for [illegible] featuring [illegible], Estatidas Bello, Chris [illegible] & more. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, noon. $5-$50
Eddie Palmieri & La Perfecta II Yoshi's, 5 & 8 pm. $18-$30. $5 kids for Sunday matinee
Musical Tendencia La Peña Cultural Center, 3 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Rolf Harvey and Rowan Club blues jam, Ralph's Tavern, 9:30 pm. free
Songwriter Sundays rotating Blues [illegible] in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight. $3
Tony Seventeen Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 pm. free
Twang Sunday featuring [illegible], Bad Tape, Thee Parkside, 4 pm. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Baggage Savvance Project Artaud Skylark, 3 pm. $15-$20

Gospel & Vocal

Lounge Round w/ Future [illegible] & rotating guests. 1300 on Fillmore, 11 am & 1 pm. $30, includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm. $25-$111
Live Jazz Brunch featuring [illegible] Trio. Hotel Utah, 11:30 am. free

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to C/O the Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Club 222 Hyde St., 415-440-0222
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-974-1585
Audium 1616 Bush St., 415-771-1616
[illegible] Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-362-9759
[illegible] Restaurant and Blues 448 Brannan St. [illegible]
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
[illegible] 2380 Mission St. 415-643-[illegible]
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-558-1131
Caffe Trieste 609 Vallejo St., 415-982-2605
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
[illegible] 312 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 285 9th St., 415-[illegible]
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
[illegible] 1710 Mission St., 415-[illegible]
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000
[illegible] 2801 Leavenworth St., 415-[illegible]
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
[illegible] 2779 16th St., 415-[illegible]
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St. 415-[illegible]
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] 1300 Van Ness Ave. 415-[illegible]
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave. 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994
[illegible] Lounge 1710 Mission St., 415-864-5585
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
The [illegible] 99 [illegible] Ave.
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238
Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Pachamama 1630 Powell St., 415-646-0018
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
[illegible] Lounge 628 20th St., 415-[illegible]
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
Rock-It Room 406 Clement St., 415-387-6344
[illegible] 222 [illegible] St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-3456
Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave. 415-550-8286
The Stud 399 9th St., 415-863-6623
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Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
[illegible] 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St., 415-616-6916
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge 2101 Sutter St., 415-[illegible]
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Yoshi's Named Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants 2010 —San Francisco Chronicle

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LISA HILTON

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PAT MARTINO
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Thurs June 3
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THE PAM & JERI SHOW
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with Mulgrew Miller & Russell Malone

Thurs May 27
PABLO MENENDEZ & MEZCLA
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Fri, Sat, Sun May 28 29 30
BENNY GREEN TRIO
with Peter Washington (bass) & Kenny Washington (drums)

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Retro-Active CD Release

Tues, Wed, June 1 2
JANE MONHEIT

Thurs, June 3
JOHN HANDY & HIS MUSIC

Fri Sat, Sun June 4 5 6
DAVE HOLLAND QUINTET

Mon June 7
JULIAN WATERFALL POLLACK
Tribute Playground CD Release

Tues June 8
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featuring DENISE PERRIER
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The second set by The Dead Weather: Jack White (The White Stripes, The Raconteurs), vocalist Alison Mosshart (The Kills), guitarist Dean Fertita (Queens Of The Stone Age), and bassist Jack Lawrence (The Raconteurs). LP available for $17.98.

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OJ Simpson
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AN HORSE, LIVE AT AMOEBA BERKELEY FRIDAY, MAY 21ST AT 5:30PM!
Australian indie-pop duo An Horse ride into Amoeba Berkeley in support of their new release EP, [illegible]

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Finish Ticket

Performing on the Main Stage at the Best of the East Bay Party August 6

Release

"Life Underwater" self release demo 2009
"We'll Be Okay" single 2010

Band Members

Brendan Hoye- Vocals, Keys
Alex DiDonato- Guitar, Vocals
Chris Anklam- Guitar, Keys
Michael Hoye- Bass
George Orr- Drums

Band Bio

Finish Ticket was formed in early 2008. Their unique and fresh indie/pop blend has quickly earned them the respect and admiration of a loyal fan base. They released their debut EP, Life Underwater, in September of 2009. The band has been receiving radio play since December and was recently named one of the top 10 'spot' bands to watch out for in 2010 by Aaron Axelsen who hosts Live 105's Radio Soundcheck. Finish Ticket was also showcased in late 2009 as one of the top five bands of the present San Francisco music scene. Finish Ticket is currently working on an album that will be released in early summer 2010 and a West Coast tour that will take place in July.

Website: http://finishticket.com/

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 20

EAST BAY

Academy Gold! w/ DJ and DJ Joe C spinning hip-hop, R&B, Dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $3 [illegible] free w/ valid ID

Dutti Fever w/ Secure Don Wahoo spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 pm, free

Obscura & Bounces Bouncer [illegible] 8 pm, tba

DJ Adds spinning eclectic ear candy. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Dusty Fingers featuring DJs Platt the Funkmaster, Ted, & Bishop Uptown, 9 pm, free

Electric Lounge Pop Disco Planet Gold DJ Kool Kyle spins reggae, local hits, & more. Kitty's, 10 pm, free

Flight Time featuring DJ Don Guapo. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

Get "LOST" at Forbidden Island featuring DJ Ronan spinning classic 70s hits. Forbidden Island, 9 pm, free

Happy Hour w/ DJ Donovan spinning reggae, African, salsa, cumbia, Brazilian, boogie, disco, & funk. Kitty's, 7 pm, free

Inside the Edge w/ DJ [illegible] spinning power pop, punk, & glam. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Hit Ball indie pop, mash-ups, new wave [illegible] 10 pm-2 am, free

Tasty [illegible] night w/ DJ Mr. Bounce spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 pm, $12-$15

Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs Visibly Slick & Franky Fresh spinning [illegible], hip-hop, & old-school. Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Damon Bueno, Dangerous Dan, & Making Out spin '80s & new wave. Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 pm, $6

Bingolopia by Kame [illegible] during Bingo. The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free

DJ Soresh & Aprozano spinning world music. [illegible] 9 pm, free

Get Gold: Mr. Fives Edition featuring DJs [illegible], & more. 222 Hyde, 9 pm, $8

Phonic rotating DJs. The Endup, 10 pm, $10

Aaprosoul w/ [illegible] Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, downtempo, reggae, disco, & breaks. [illegible] Lounge

10 pm, $8

The Hottest Press Meeting [illegible] Parlande, 9 pm, free

Rosarah featuring DJ Roger Sanchez, Vessel, 9:30 pm, $10-$20

Tappa Tap Thursdays w/ Jah Warrior Shelter Hi-Fi, Irie Dole [illegible] spinning reggae. Club Six, 9 pm-2 am, $5 free before 10 pm w/ RSVP

Tropicana Night DJ [illegible], Si Santa and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton, and Merengue. Medrone Lounge, 9 pm, free

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

The Job w/ DJs [illegible] & His Friends spinning fast raps, free [illegible] Bounce Lounge, 10 pm, free

Eree 21 w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

DJ WSM's Sore Shot Gold Garden Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Fly and Flashy w/ Cal Rykan spinning dance music & top 40 hits. Club Anton, 9 pm-2 am, $10 [illegible]

Friday Night [illegible] w/ guest DJs spinning [illegible] La Estrellita Cafe, 10 pm, $5

Hip-Hop Raices Music w/ [illegible] Club 2220, 9 pm, $5

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, [illegible] Spanish pop, & house, dance and Bar, 9 pm-2 am, $6-$15

Motion dance w/ DJ [illegible] Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free

Motion Gold! what DJ Lounge spinning reggae, soca, salsa & R&B. Island Paradise Club, 10 pm, ladies free [illegible]

Nothing Fridays DJs [illegible] spin dancehall, reggae & R&B. Kaleidoscope City, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, $8 to $15

Solfery Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 pm, $5

World Beat Fridays featuring DJ Bright spinning Afrobeat, [illegible] salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Conga Lounge, 10 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Bazaar Gold DJs spin [illegible] w/ Latin & Brazilian beats. Glas Kat, 10 pm, $5 [illegible] before 10:30 pm

Dirtybird Presents featuring DJs [illegible], Phillip Just, [illegible] Worthy, & more. [illegible] 7 pm, tba

DJ Danny Ransome spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, indie, & pop. Bang Bar, 9 pm, free

Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more. Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Fridays at the Fruit Stand w/ DJs Carmen & Miranda spinning soul, funk, & world. [illegible] 9 pm, free

Kaleidoscope DJ Carlos Gold soul, [illegible] R&B, garage, dance [illegible] 9 pm, free

Mighty Breaks Mighty, 10 pm, $10

Never Attack w/ DJs Vero, Star Demon, Mateo, Christine Dean & David spinning indie, [illegible] minimal, [illegible] Cat Club, 9:30 pm, free before 10 pm, $3

Sinfonia [illegible] reggae by Pablo Day w/ rotating DJs. Asia SF, 10 pm, $8

Union w/ DJs K-Bug, [illegible] Caribbean [illegible] & Mark. Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

VSL Fridays featuring DJ D-Sharp spinning hot [illegible] mash-ups. Vessel, 9:30 pm, tba

SATURDAY 22

EAST BAY

All Productions & Goodstyle DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. [illegible], 10 pm, free

Bang Boom spinning Caribbean, cumbia, hip-hop, & Latin funk. La Peña Cultural Center, 9:30 pm, $10

Fresh Dilemma w/ DJs Rum, Chris, Olga T, & guests spinning hip-hop. [illegible] and Bar, 9 pm, $8-$12

Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Food's Hook Stork Club, 9 pm, tba

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible] White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $5

La Gold Loca Latin [illegible] night w/ DJs spinning salsa, [illegible] & dance plus hot go-go dancers. Club 21, 9 pm, $8-$15

Mas Loco & Koala w/ DJs [illegible] Kara and Farmer's Market [illegible] at 2:00 a.m. Envy Lounge, 10 pm, free

The People Party The Ivory Parish, 9 pm, tba

Reggae Gold w/ DJs Daddy Pete, Mandryk, Pato Bounce, & guests. Caribbean City, 10 pm, $15

Ta-Daw!!! DJs from the [illegible] Fadeus, [illegible], & the [illegible] spin classic party anthems & future funk. Lobo's [illegible] & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Warm Up w/ DJ Phat Cat spinning hip-hop, R&B. Bounce Lounge, 6-10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Columbia y Panama featuring DJs Bolo, [illegible] Club [illegible] 10 pm, $5

DJ Stone Dry Swig Bar, 9 pm, free

Dubfire 1015 Nightclub, 10 pm, $20

Gomorrah Saturdays w/ DJ Chris Lounge spinning [illegible] rock, & mash-ups. Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5

The Jump Off featuring DJs [illegible] Club Six, 9 pm, $5-$10

Boogie [illegible] 9 pm, $8-$10

Nightbeat w/ DJs Primo & Lucky spinning Northern soul and [illegible] Lounge, 45s, Edinburgh Castle, 9 pm, free before 10 pm, $5

Reggae Gold SF DJs Daddy Gold, Pete, [illegible] & Fuse spin reggae, dancehall, & roots. Club Six, 9 pm, $10-$15

Remedy 16 Year Anniversary featuring DJs Nakadia, [illegible] Papa, [illegible] 9 pm, $40

Vest Lounge DJs spinning Lounge hip-hop, urban top 40, & funky [illegible] Glas Kat, 10 pm, $20

SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

Lounge DJs Kendall, Mano, & guests spin funk, soul, tech house, & more. Club [illegible], 12 pm, free

King of Kings DJ [illegible] free guests spin reggae, dancehall, soca, & dance and [illegible] Down Low, 9 pm, $10 [illegible] free before 11 pm

Soul Sanctuary dance Community dance. Shoes optional. [illegible] Ashkenaz, 11 am-2 pm, $5-$15, free for newcomers [illegible] 12 & under

Uncle Fun's [illegible] Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & early reggae. The [illegible] Club, 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Gold in the box featuring DJs [illegible], Jane [illegible], & more. [illegible] 9 pm, $5 [illegible], $10 after

Dubes w/ [illegible] and [illegible] plus guests spinning house, tech, bass and soul. [illegible] Crown, 10 pm

Gehling Fire DJs [illegible] & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF, 9 pm, free before 10:30 pm, $5

Honey Big SF w/ DJ [illegible] Disco for big men & their admirers. Gold Bar, 5-midnight, $5

Sunday's Deluxe w/ DJs Adrian, Vince, Felicia [illegible], [illegible], John Farly, & more. The Knockout, 9 pm-6 pm, $10

MONDAY 24

EAST BAY

DJ Angie spinning dub, ska, & soul. Envy Lounge, 9 pm, free

Glas Rock & Roll w/ Gem 4 p.m.-8 p.m. & Mike 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Club 2220 & [illegible] 2 am, free

Underground Lounge popular '90s & 70s music. [illegible] 10 pm-2 am, free

SAN FRANCISCO

North Disco Glas Kat, 9:30 pm, $3 before 10 pm, $5

Beautiful Grab Night Live acoustic [illegible] by DJs spinning all [illegible] "Hood" [illegible] Joey Gamin, Milk, $5

Lounge dance, soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, Brazilian, Afrobeat, & more. Little Baobab, 10 pm, $3

Soul Gold dancehall w/ DJ Tragic & the Duchess of Hazard. Hemlock Tavern, 10 pm, tba

Revolutions Per [illegible] Lounge Tour The Fillmore, 8 pm, tba

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & Bounce spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae. Skylark, 9:30 pm, free

TUESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Country [illegible] Night plus live [illegible] Club 1220, 9 pm, free

DJ Isaac Disco [illegible] spinning funk, indie, punk, new wave & more. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Woody spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Industry Live w/ DJ Mind [illegible] & guests. Spin Ultra Lounge & Gourmet Pizza, 8 pm, $10

Minimal Tech & dance w/ DJ [illegible] Blakes on Telegraph, 10 pm, tba

Sone w/ [illegible] Collective DJs spinning dance, breaks, & house. Blakes on Telegraph, 9 pm, free

Diverge featuring DJ [illegible] & weekly guests spinning Gold [illegible] the 60's through tomorrow. [illegible] East, 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blows Up Jah Warrior Shelter Hi-Fi, [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop & live [illegible] Milk, 10 pm, $5

Climbing Disco w/ DJ Stanley [illegible] guests spinning disco, 80s free house, Triple Crown, 10 pm, $3

Alcoholocaust presents DJ [illegible] spinning old school punk rock w/ guest DJs. Argus Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Bad Wolves w/ DJ Big Gold. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Cat Fancy & DJ the Fonty Gold [illegible] funky soul, girl groups, [illegible] rock, 60s San Francisco [illegible] & more. The Knockout, 10 pm, free

Liquid Revolver Vessel, 9:30 pm, free

Pacific Standard Tour hip-hop & soul w/ [illegible] & Sake-1 plus live guests. 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $5

Serenata w/ DJs Chicken Sandwich, Snooky Fox, Derrick B, MCD & guests spinning soul, 80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 26

EAST BAY

Afternoon Delight w/ DJ Ady spinning Brazilian, funk, & more. Kitty's, 9 pm, free

Lounge Pop dance w/ DJs Adam Aut, Justin [illegible], [illegible] Blues and Jaysonn spinning dance [illegible] electronica, Blakes on Telegraph, 9 pm, $5

Hump Day w/ DJs Jet & Gold [illegible] Bounce Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free

The [illegible] Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs [illegible] hip-hop. Club 21, 9 pm, $8-$15

Bounce Wednesdays DJ Santero & rotating guests spin salsa, cumbia, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus salsa [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Mind Mights DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins North African & Middle Eastern. Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

Bondage-a-Go-Go go-go [illegible] plus DJs spinning dirty disco. Glas Kat, 9:30 pm, $5 before 10:30 pm, $7

Doublestandard w/ DJs Nako, Oscar, & Justin spinning goth. [illegible] Room, 10 pm, $5

DJ [illegible] spinning salsa & reggaeton. Little [illegible], 9 pm, $3

Bounce Social Rock Night [illegible] The Knockout, 6-9 pm, free

Satellite w/ rotating guest DJs, [illegible] 9 pm, free before 10 pm, $5

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PICK

Baths

Twisted electronic manipulator **Baths** releases the dulcetly *Cerulean* on Oakland label **Anticon** Tues. 25. It's among the best of the year for Anticon, so Baths (aka **Will Wiesenfeld**) set at the **[illegible]** Four Year Anniversary Party at **Milk Bar** (1840 Haight St., San Francisco) is simply not to be missed. Wiesenfeld will be joined by DJ sets from **Sugar & Gold** and **Disco Shawn**, as well as new all-girl Berkeley pop-rockers **The Splinters**, while atop the bill sits **Sister Canyon** and **Man/Miracle**. More conventionally, UK trip-hop legends **Massive Attack** plays Tuesday, May 25, at the **Warfield** touring behind fifth album *Heligoland* released this year, which includes vocals from fellow Tuesday night guest **Martina Topley Bird**. Baths plays Thursday, May 20, 8 p.m., $5. MilkSF.com — David Downs

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SAVAGE LOVE

COMING OUT IS HARD TO DO

So is hiding a $5,000 life-size sex doll.

By Dan Savage

One of my best friends at college is gay. I'm a straight female in a committed relationship with my own boyfriend. We're going to be sophomores in the fall, and I feel like this is about the age where coming out to one's parents is in order. However, my friend's parents are incredibly conservative. His older brother is also gay — and when he came out, his parents immediately cut off all funding for college and excommunicated him from the family, so my friend is understandably terrified.

When his parents come into town to visit, I am sometimes asked to tag along on "dates" with him to "meet the parents." It's a free meal, so it's mostly cool with me, but it feels a little dirty to lie so blatantly to his mom and dad about how "in love" we are. Moreover, my friend is coming to my house this summer. I had said I would love for him to come visit — as a friend. But his parents think he's going to be staying with his girlfriend, and they're thinking of tagging along so they can finally meet their future in-laws, i.e., MY PARENTS. I feel like this is getting way out of hand.

I Should Win An Oscar

When you feel bad about lying, remind yourself that you're doing a good deed. Yes, you're lying to his mean-spirited, emotionally abusive parents, two shits who deserve so much worse. When they excommunicated their older son after he came out, they essentially put their younger son on notice. So he lies to them because — for the time being — he must.

You should ask him to do three things to ensure your continued cooperation in this deception. First, he has to make a solemn promise that he will come out to his parents the day after he graduates. Second, he has to reach out to his excommunicated brother and, if his brother can be trusted to keep his secret, he has to come out to his brother. Third, he has to break up with you at the end of the school year.

The course of true love never did run smooth, as someone or other once said, so a painfully messy June breakup with his college girlfriend not only makes your friend's Potemkin heterosexuality that much more credible, it also gets you off the hook for this ill-advised summer visit. Then when September rolls around, you two crazy kids get back together. Repeat as necessary, i.e., be "on again" every once in a while when his parents are in town, be "off again" when your parents are in town, over summer breaks, holidays, etc.

And help him look around for his next girlfriend — perhaps a lesbian with similarly batshit parents — because he can't expect you to be his beard for your entire college career.

I am a gay male teenager. I have not yet come out to my parents (I plan to soon), but my friends know. I'm curious why I relate more easily to my straight friends and am increasingly uncomfortable with my gay friends. Specifically, I have a lesbian friend who often makes jokes about "how gay I am." When she makes these statements, I am often offended. Or am I still uncomfortable with myself? I am not shy, but I will admit that extreme campiness makes me uncomfortable.

Lost And Disillusioned

It's good to have a sense of humor about yourself, LAD, whether you're gay or straight or bi or whatever. Shrug off your lesbian friend's comments if they're not funny; laugh along with her if they are.

As for your preference for your straight friends: There are a lot more openly straight kids in your life than there are openly gay kids. That means you're drawing from a much larger pool and you're able to be more selective about the straight people you hang out with. Right now, you can't afford to be as selective when it comes to gay friends because (1) most gay kids your age aren't out and (2) gays and lesbians are a tiny percentage of the population and you won't meet lots of us until you get to one of those places where gays and lesbians clump up, i.e., large universities and big cities. Then you'll be able to forge friendships with gays and lesbians whom you have something in common with besides your sexuality.

In the meantime, don't write off all gays and lesbians everywhere as potential friends just because the few you had to choose from as a teenager weren't among your best friends.

I am devoting all my mental resources toward academics and am not interested in dating. Thus, I bought a Real Doll so that I may enjoy fantastic masturbation during this loveless period of my life. Unfortunately, while my parents were visiting, my mom discovered it and she reacted very, very badly. You see, my dear mother is a feminist. She is very upset by the doll and believes it is an indication that I have lost all respect for women. I view myself as a feminist and I realize this society sexually objectifies women. But I also believe that I can masturbate with a rubber woman and have wild fantasies and then come back to reality and have respect for everyone. My mother, however, is extremely upset, and we haven't been able to have a civil conversation since.

Dolled Up

Your masturbatory routines are none of your mother's fucking business. And if your mother wants to be shocked by something, it ought to be that her son, a grad student, had $5k to plunk down on a sex toy. Your options at this stage are pretty limited. You can apologize to your mother and tell her what she wants to hear ("You're right, Mom, what was I thinking? I'm making an appointment with a therapist now."). Or you can tell your mother to fuck off and butt out ("You remember that 'my body, my choice' stuff, right?").

That said, your claim that you bought a Real Doll so you could "enjoy fantastic masturbation during this loveless period of my life" doesn't quite pass the smell-of-day-old-spunk-curdling-in-the-lifeless-orifice-of-a-silicone-dummy test. Most guys who opt for insanely expensive sex dolls do have issues with women, so you may want to entertain the possibility that your mother might be right. But even if you do have issues with women, they're still none of your mother's fucking business. ●

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage.
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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Studio [illegible] Kennedy & Studio 3A**, Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA [illegible] Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: Sean Kennedy, [illegible] St. Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/30/2010.
Studio [illegible] Kennedy & Studio 3A
4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 1531 Russell St Apt 30 Berkeley, CA 94703. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 1531 Russell St Apt 30 Berkeley, CA 94703. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/[illegible]/2010.
[illegible]
4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437364
The following individual is doing business as **The Gaslight Emporium**, Street Address: 1112 [illegible] Ave. Alameda CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] 1530 [illegible] St. Alameda CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on December 1, 2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/[illegible]/2010.
The Gaslight Emporium
5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437420
The following individual is doing business as **Practical Help for Parents**, Street Address: 6665 [illegible] Avenue Ste. [illegible] Oakland, CA 94611. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: Michael T. Simon, MFT [illegible] St. Fremont, CA 94[illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on June 1, 2005. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/21/2010.
Practical Help for Parents
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437827
The following individual is doing business as **OF Studio**, [illegible] Street Address: [illegible] Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: Derek L. Smith [illegible] St. Berkeley, CA 94[illegible]. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/21/2010.
OF Studio
5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Photography** Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94[illegible] Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] St. [illegible] CA 94[illegible]. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on April 2006. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
[illegible] Photography
5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544
Hayward Hall of Justice
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: [illegible] to Proposed Name [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
JUNE 30, 2010 at 8:45 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544.
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: May [illegible], 2010.
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2/2010

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Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437924
The following individuals are doing business as **Honeycomb Productions**, Street Address: [illegible] 29th Street # 2, Oakland, CA 94609. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible], 670 29th Street # 2, Oakland, CA 94609 and Christel M. Thomas, 734 [illegible], [illegible], CA 94530. This business is conducted by a joint venture. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/29/2010.
Honeycomb Productions
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/2010

Fictitious Alameda Name Statement File # 438149
The following individual is doing business as **LF Construction**, Street Address: [illegible] East 15th Street, Fremont, CA 94601. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: LF [illegible] Enterprises, Inc., [illegible] East 15th Street, Fremont, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 5/6/2010.
LF Construction
5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 438461-62
The following individual is doing business as **Business Link & Sage Web Publishing**, Street Address: [illegible] Court, Fremont, CA 94539. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: Patrick Joe Phone Tang, [illegible] Court, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 5/12/2010.
Business Link & Sage Web Publishing
5/12, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name [illegible] to Proposed Name [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
JUNE 18, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: March 11, 2010
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner YUKA [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name YUKA [illegible] to Proposed Name YUKA [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
JULY 16, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: April 29, 2010.
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 437158
The following individual is doing business as **VAL-PACIFIC**, Street Address: 2203 [illegible] St. #A, Berkeley, CA 94704. Mailing Address: Same As Above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Valbuena, 2203 [illegible] St. #A, Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 04/13/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2010.
VAL-PACIFIC
4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court
2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner CASSANDRA MARIE PRICE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name CASSANDRA MARIE PRICE to Proposed Name [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
August 20, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: May 12, 2010
Signed: Carl W. Morris
Judge of the Superior Court
5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/2010

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Sex: Female, Spayed
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Rescue by: East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.[illegible].org

Bean Cookie
Breed: [illegible]
Color: [illegible] and white
Sex: Male, neutered
Age: 11 months old
Description: [illegible]
Rescue by: East Bay Humane Society
2700 9th Street, Berkeley
510-845-7735
www.[illegible].org

Notice disclaimer on truth affidavit to correct all collusion to the natural human woman Maryjane Milton Maryjane Collins from a strawman identity titled MARYJANE MILTON COLLINS and the State of California common current knowledge a birth certificate marriage certificate T.I.N., S.I.N., Drivers License and other corporated I.D.'s take rights and natural functions from real human people. I hereby disclaim and retire from the use of all instruments to the corporate US and the jurisdiction of US corporation and disclaim the power of attorney. I hereby claim back my nationality as a Moor that has inheritance 1928 moorecan trust act Noble Drew Ali trust the land called Africa Al Moroc North and South America, North Gate and finally called America with a global claim of dual citizenship world citizen and Moorish nationality. Maryjane Milton to Collins claim a redemption to repent for all my S.I.N. and be charged to (fiscal) minister amicable mutual agreement to offset and wine off to redeem the public debt from fiat currency from all strawman collusion act to fraudulent liability subject to US government I am not black, African American, Colored, or negro chattel bond that is a improper person. I hereby with this promulgation redeem back my proper person nationality and true self by name maryjane el muhammad born in the republic united state of Indiana from Frances Milton and Albert Milton from Indiana ancestry from Blackfoot Indians to the Washitaw proper Moors. In the year 1933 moors of North America Legislative Journal House pg 57.59 resolution 758 1934 April 11 1933 adopted May 4 1933 house of Representatives the status of the proud Moor. The 6 of the US constitution treaty Marrakesh and Moroccan flag to redeem my birthright naturalization to my nation with all disclaimer of color law.
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/2010

Notice disclaimer on truth affidavit to correct all collusion to the natural human man Frederick Collins from a strawman identity titled FREDERICK COLLINS and the State of California common current knowledge a birth certificate marriage certificate, T.I.N., S.I.N., Drivers License and other corporated I.D.'s take rights and natural functions from real human people. I hereby disclaim and retire from the use of all instruments to the corporate US and the jurisdiction of US corporation and disclaim the power of attorney. I hereby claim back my nationality as a moor that has inheritance 1928 moorecan trust act Noble Drew Ali trust the land called Africa Al Moroc North and South America, North Gate and finally called America with a global claim of dual citizenship world citizen and Moorish nationality. I Frederick Collins claim a redemption to repent for all my S.I.N. and be charged to (fiscal) minister amicable mutual agreement to offset and wine off to redeem the public debt from fiat currency from all strawman collusion act to fraudulent liability subject to US government I am not black African American Colored or negro chattel bond that is a improper person. I hereby with this promulgation redeem back my proper person nationality and true self by name Frederick [illegible] el muhammad born in the republic united state of California from Patricia Moore and Buck Collins from California ancestry from Blackfoot Indians to the Washitaw proper Moors. In the year 1933 moors of North America Legislative Journal House pg 57.59 resolution 758 1934 April 17 1933 adopted May 4 1933 house of Representatives the status of the proud Moor. The 6 of the US constitution treaty Marrakesh and Moroccan flag to redeem my birth right redeem from 11 my nation with all disclaimer of color law.
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/2010

STATE OF WASHINGTON
ISLAND COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
In re the Dependency of
MOORE ALVAREZ, Alexa Carroll aka Alexa Alvarez
DOB 04/15/05
NO. 09-7-00[illegible]-3
NOTICE AND SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TERMINATION
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
TO: Ignacio Alvarez Jr. - Alleged Father

A Termination Petition was filed on July 15, 2009. A pre-trial/primary hearing will be held on this matter on June 16, 2010 at 9:30 am at Island County Superior Court, 101 N.E. 6th St., Coupeville, WA 98239. You are notified that a petition has been filed in the above court asking that your parental rights to the above named child be terminated. You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. This petition could result in permanent loss of your parental rights. THE ABOVE NAMED INDIVIDUALS ARE SUMMONED TO APPEAR at said hearing regarding your child. If you fail to appear at the preliminary hearing, the court will take evidence against you, make findings of fact, and order that your parental rights be terminated, without further notice to you. To request a copy of the Notice, Summons, and Termination Petition, and/or to view information about your rights in this proceeding, go to www.atg.wa.gov/TRM.aspx.
DATED this 3rd day of May 2010.
By: Patricia Terry, Island County Clerk.
5/5, 5/12, 5/19/2010

Notice disclaimer on truth affidavit to correct all collusion to the natural human man Charles Albert Milton from a strawman identity titled CHARLES ALBERT MILTON and the State of California common current knowledge a birth certificate, marriage certificate, T.I.N., S.I.N., Drivers License and other corporated I.D.'s take rights and human function from real human people. I hereby disclaim and retire from the use of all instruments to the corporate US and the jurisdiction of U.S. corporation and disclaim the power of attorney. I hereby claim back my nationality as a moor that has inheritance 1928 moorecan trust act Noble Drew Ali trust the land called Africa Al Moroc North and South America, North Gate and finally called America with a global claim of dual citizenship world citizen and Moorish nationality. I Charles Albert Milton claim a redemption to repent for all my S.I.N. and be charged to (fiscal) minister amicable mutual agreement to offset and wine off to redeem the public debt from fiat currency from all strawman collusion act to fraudulent liability subject to U.S. government I am not Black, African American, Colored or Negro chattel bond that is a improper person. I hereby with this promulgation redeem back my proper person, nationality and true self by name charles albert el muhammad born in the republic united state of Wisconsin from Frances Milton and Albert Milton from Indiana ancestry from Blackfoot Indians to the Washitaw proper moors. In the year 1933 moors of North America Legislative Journal House pg 57.59 resolution 758 1934 April 17 1933 adopted May 4, 1933 house of representatives the status of the proud Moor. The 6 of the U.S. constitution treaty Marrakesh and Moroccan flag to redeem my birth right naturalization to my nation with all disclaimer of color law.
5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23/2010

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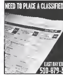
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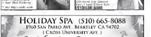
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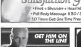
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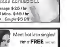
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